THE COUNTY COURTHOUSES AND RECORDS OF MARYLAND

Part Two: The Records

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THE COUNTY COURTHOUSES AND RECORDS OF MARYLAND

Part Two: The Records

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THE HALL OF RECORDS

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Hall of Records
Annapolis, Maryland

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FOREWORD

It was the original intention of the writer to compile a list of the county records of Maryland. For obvious reasons it became necessary to account for the counties which created the records, the courthouses in which they were housed, the peregrinations and acts of God which destroyed them. In time this introductory material became so bulky that it was published separately as *The County Courthouses and Records of Maryland, Part One: The Courthouses* (Annapolis, 1960). But the first purpose of the project was not forgotten; and here at last is the list.

At the beginning it was to be a complete list modeled after the County Record Inventories of the Historical Records Survey. Eight such Inventories were published in Maryland, and although it is now twenty years since the last one appeared, they are still useful; and had all 23 counties and Baltimore City been done, this new list would not really have been necessary, at least not to historians who are for the most part little interested in the records after 1940. At one moment we thought of reissuing the eight published volumes and preparing from the notes we had inherited from the WPA the additional 16 volumes as of 1936-1942. However these notes varied so much in quality and quantity that we had to abandon any idea of using them except as a check on our own work.

What we have done here then is to do the listing anew but using when we could the published volumes of the Historical Records Survey, the unedited notes of the same agency along with the many articles of Louis Dow Scisco and other archivists and historians. But we have made some changes in scope. The HRS was all inclusive: records of county courts, magistrates' courts, boards of education, volunteer fire associations were all treated equally well. Had we wished it we could not have done this kind of inventory again. The cost was prohibitive then and would be monstrous now. Nor did we wish it. The HRS, since it was pioneering could not be certain in advance what purpose its work would serve. It felt constrained, therefore, to provide for every possibility. We know now that historians were the chief benefactors.

Our work has put the needs of the historian first. We have eliminated certain records which we have learned in the intervening twenty years have little or no interest for him. This is a choice which ideally the archivist should not make but which practically he must.

It should be pointed out too that while the HRS listed only those records found in the counties *in situ,* we have attempted to list the county records wherever they may be and in whatever form. We have also noted where usable copies are available. For example, the land records of Dorchester County begin with the first year of the County, 1669. From that year through 1875 the original record volumes are at the Hall of Records. From 1875 through 1949 microfilm copies of the original are at the Hall of Records. The Land Office has microfilm copies from 1949 to the present. In the Dorchester County Courthouse from the beginning through 1788 there are photostatic copies; from 1789 to 1875 there are microfilm copies; from 1875 to the present the courthouse records are originals. Finally, the Utah Genealogical Society has microfilm copies from the beginning through 1850. While this enumeration is complicated we feel that it is important enough to the researcher to be justified.

The listing of the records is principally the work of Phebe Jacobsen and Gust Skordas

of the Hall of Records staff. Theirs was a thankless, exasperating task—but at the same time it is the heart of the book. Mr. Skordas is also responsible for the Introduction, a valuable essay on Maryland county government and records. His many years of experience in this field has well prepared him for the role of explainer. The short essays preceding the list for each county are the work of this writer as are the "Notes" which are in fact addenda to Part I of this work. The index was prepared by Frank White, and the typing which demanded extraordinary accuracy was done by Helen Kilborn and Anna Hantske. I am grateful to the other members of the Hall of Records staff who found hints and clues for the historical "Notes" and to the Hall of Records Commission and the taxpayers of Maryland who have continued to offer support and funds for these publications.

Morris L. Radoff,
Archivist and Records Administrator

Annapolis, Maryland
June 14, 1963

INTRODUCTION

I. County Government

Circuit Court

County government developed very early in Maryland. In fact, the Charter of the colony was based on the organization of the county palatine in England. As early as January 29, 1637/38, James Baldridge was commissioned "Sheriff and Coroner of the county of St. Maries" and assigned the same powers vested in "the office of a sheriff and coroner of any County in England". St. Mary's County was divided into hundreds and for a year or two the Isle of Kent, representing all of the settled area of the Eastern Shore, was designated as one of the hundreds of St. Mary's.

But by 1642, and perhaps earlier, the Isle of Kent had been established as a county in its own right with a commander, who was also designated chief judge, three commissioners or court justices, a sheriff and, in all likelihood, a clerk of court. Other counties were created from time to time and by 1658 the form of county government was well established in Maryland. It changed very little for the remainder of the colonial period.

The justices, or commissioners as they were more commonly called, of the county court were commissioned jointly by the Governor and held office at his pleasure. The number of commissioners varied from eight to twenty-eight depending on the size and population of the county. Beginning in 1733, the members of the Governor's Council were named at the head of every commission for a county court, although they rarely exercised this prerogative. Certain of the commissioners were designated as justices of the quorum and no court could be held unless at least one of them was present.

There are only infrequent and indirect references to the county courts in the Constitution of 1776, but such as are found make it obvious that the framers of the new government contemplated no changes in the structure and functions of these courts. In 1790, however, the State was divided into five judicial districts, as follows:

First—St. Mary's, Calvert, Prince George's and Charles Counties

Second—Cecil, Kent, Queen Anne's and Talbot Counties

Third—Anne Arundel, Baltimore and Harford Counties

Fourth—Caroline, Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester Counties

Fifth—Washington, Frederick, Allegany and Montgomery Counties

A chief justice and two associate justices were appointed for each district and the court terms in the district were staggered so that the full bench could be present in each county when court was held. The judicial districts, now called circuits, have been frequently reorganized and the number of judges increased, but the system still prevails.

Clerk of Court

The clerk of court was responsible for recording the proceedings and actions of the court, for recording deeds, conveyances and other papers delivered to him for such purpose and for

preserving the records of the court. Since 1777, he has been authorized to issue marriage and other licenses required by law.

Sheriff

The sheriff has been described as "the county court's chief executive officer." He served summonses, writs and other process issued by the court. He impaneled juries, apprehended persons accused of crimes and kept them in custody if they were sentenced to the county prison, which was in his charge. He collected and paid out the county levy and public levy. He had certain duties with respect to elections. He also supervised the work of the constables in preparing lists of taxables within their respective hundreds and in their capacity as law enforcement officers.

Law Jurisdiction

At first, the jurisdiction of the county court was limited to civil cases not exceeding 3,000 pounds of tobacco in value and to criminal cases not jeopardizing life or member. Even in such cases it shared concurrent jurisdiction with the Provincial Court. However, after 1710 cases in which the debt or damage amounted to less than 5,000 pounds of tobacco or £20 sterling were barred from the Provincial Court. This limitation was increased to 30,000 pounds of tobacco or £100 sterling. At the same time the county court was given concurrent jurisdiction with the Provincial Court in criminal cases. In 1785, the county court acquired full jurisdiction in all civil cases, and finally, upon the abolition of the General Court in 1805, became the highest court of original jurisdiction in the State.

Equity Jurisdiction

Throughout the colonial period, and for sometime afterwards, the Chancery Court was the major equity court of Maryland while the county court handled the lesser cases. For example, in 1715, the county court was assigned exclusive jurisdiction in equity cases in which the value in dispute did not exceed 1,200 pounds of tobacco or £5 sterling. In 1763, it was given concurrent jurisdiction with the Chancery Court in equity cases involving no more than 5000 pounds of tobacco or £20 sterling. The powers of the county court were further enlarged in 1791 when it was granted original equity jurisdiction in all cases where the value in dispute did not exceed 10,000 pounds of tobacco or £100 sterling. In 1814, all limitations were removed and the county court was given equal jurisdiction with that of the Chancery Court. Finally, the Chancery Court was abolished in 1851 and the county court assumed exclusive original jurisdiction in equity cases.

Baltimore City Courts

Under the Constitution of 1851, Baltimore City was separated from Baltimore County and established as a unit of government comparable in many respects to a county. The judicial functions performed by the circuit court of a county were distributed among the three courts established for the City. The court system of Baltimore has since been expanded and there are now six trial courts, each of which has certain responsibilities, as follows:

1. COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

This court was created by the Constitution of 1851. It was assigned civil jurisdiction in all suits where the debt or damage claim was over one hundred dollars and did not exceed five hundred dollars. The minimum of one hundred dollars still applies, but since 1867, the court has had concurrent civil jurisdiction with the Superior Court and Baltimore City Court.

From the beginning the Court of Common Pleas has had exclusive jurisdiction over insolvency proceedings; the Clerk has had the authority to issue marriage and other licenses required by law.

2. SUPERIOR COURT

The Constitution of 1851 gave this court civil jurisdiction over all suits where the debt or damage claimed exceeded the sum of five hundred dollars. Since 1867, the Superior Court has had concurrent jurisdiction in civil cases with the Court of Common Pleas and the Baltimore City Court. Originally, the Superior Court also had jurisdiction as a court of equity, but this was abrogated by the Constitution of 1867.

The Constitution of 1851 made the Clerk of the Superior Court responsible for receiving and recording "all deeds, conveyances and other papers which are required by law to be recorded. . . ." He was also charged with custody of the records formerly belonging to the Clerk of the Baltimore County Court which had remained at the Courthouse in Baltimore City.

3. CRIMINAL COURT

This court has had exclusive jurisdiction in all criminal cases since its creation in 1851.

4. CIRCUIT COURT

This court was established by Chapter 122 of the Acts of 1853. It had concurrent jurisdiction in equity cases with the Superior Court until 1867, when it acquired exclusive jurisdiction for about twenty years. In 1888, an additional equity court, Circuit Court No. 2, was established and the two courts have shared jurisdiction in equity cases ever since.

5. CIRCUIT COURT No. 2.

This court was established by Chapter 194 of the Acts of 1888 and was assigned the same jurisdiction as the Circuit Court. Since 1943, Circuit Court No. 2 has also had jurisdiction in juvenile causes.

6. BALTIMORE CITY COURT

This court was created by the Constitution of 1867 and assigned concurrent civil jurisdiction with the Court of Common Pleas and the Superior Court. It has exclusive jurisdiction in cases of appeal from judgments of justices of the peace or cases of appeal arising from the ordinances of the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore.

Administrative Responsibilities of County Court

During the colonial period, the county court, in addition to its judicial functions, also served as the executive body of the county. As such, one of its chief responsibilities was laying the county levy. This meant examining and passing upon the claims of public creditors and other expenses of the county, determining the total amount needed to defray these charges and establishing the tax rate to be assessed against county taxpayers in order to raise the necessary funds. In similar fashion, the General Assembly laid the public levy, which covered the expenses of the Assembly and other charges against the provincial government. The county levy and the public levy were collected at the same time by the sheriff of each county, for which he was allowed a commission of ten percent.

The county court appointed constables, road supervisors, keepers of standards of weights and measures, and other minor officers. After 1661, the court nominated three persons from whom the Governor selected the county sheriff.

To Mr Philip Conier Comander and the rest of the Commissioners of the Countie of Kent in Maryland

Whereas the Commons of the Countie of Kent in Maryland by their Representatives or Burgesses chosen by them to attend the generall Assembly October the 20th 1654 did desire that they might retaine their ancient priviledges to have a Court of Judicature Continued in the said Countie And the Assembly by a particular arte in that Case provided, did determine that they should enioy that priviledge as formerly, and that the next Provinciall Court should Consider of the persons nominated & pounded to be Comissioners for the said Countie of Kent, and vericue their Engagement to the present Government settled in Maryland under his highness the Lord Protector and so grant them power in his name to act as Comissioners for the Countie of the Isle of Kent And arrowdinge to the Sayd art of Assembly Mr Philip Conier Comander of the Sayd County and the rest of the Comissioners nominated did appear before the Provinciall Court and there accepted of a power of Judicature And Engaged themselves by Oath to serve the Lord Protector and Common wealth as Comissioners for the Countie of Kent;

These are therefore to declare to all whom it may concerne That the sd power of Judicature so graunted as afforesaid to the sd Philip Conier Comander and the rest of the Comissioners of Kent ought and shall Continue in force Arrowdinge to the Art of Assembly notwithstandinge any thinge that hath been done since on occasion of the late troubles arisinge or any other Cause whatsoever And the sayd Comander & Comissioners of the sayd Countie of Kent are hereby Required in the Name of his highness the Lord Protector of England to Attend to their duty and trust Committed to them, to the best of their knowledge & abillity (Wherein of the man) not to faill upon their peill given the 24th of September 1655

To be published by the Sheriffe

Will Fuller

8 mo 29 This day all whatsoever hath been written Entred or Record in the Court Booke since the last Court houlden April 25: 55 was Published by ye Courts Appointment

Proclamation of William Fuller continuing the power of judicature formerly granted to the Commissioners of Kent County, September 24, 1655.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Levy Court

For some years after the adoption of the Constitution of 1776, the county court continued to exercise its administrative responsibilities. An Act of 1780 required the justices to hold court annually either in June or August "to adjust the ordinary and necessary expenses of their several counties" and "to impose an assessment or rate on all property within their county sufficient to defray such county charge. . . ." This annual meeting came to be known as the levy court.

Under an Act of 1798, certain of the justices of the county court were also commissioned as justices of the levy court and the other justices specifically prohibited from acting in such capacity. The levy court thus established assumed all of the administrative functions formerly performed by the county court.

Commissioners of the Tax

For one reason or another, the sources of revenue that had proved most productive during the colonial period were unavailable to the government established under the Constitution of 1776. Poll taxes were specifically prohibited in the Declaration of Rights. Quit rents would have been bitterly resented by a people recently freed from proprietary rule. Customs duties and tonnage duties were virtually eliminated by the British blockade.

The Declaration of Rights had set forth the basic tenet that every person "ought to contribute his proportion of public taxes, for the support of government, according to his actual worth in real or personal property." Thus, the General Assembly at its first session held in February 1777 adopted an act entitled "An Act to assess and impose an equal tax on all property within this state." In the act five commissioners of the tax were named for each county and charged with the responsibility of supervising the evaluation of property within their respective counties. They met early in each year and appointed assessors for each tax district. After the Assessors had prepared their assessment lists, the commissioners of the tax reviewed the lists, heard and determined complaints and prepared the final assessment lists, which were turned over to the sheriffs for collection.

For the first few years only the State benefited from this tax, but in 1780, the county court was authorized to levy an assessment on property within the county to defray the county charge. After 1785, the Legislature did not impose a State assessment on property and so for over fifty years this field of taxation became the exclusive property of the counties. The levy court determined the necessary expenses of the county and imposed the assessment. It also appointed the collectors. The clerks of the county courts kept an account of the assessment and how it was disbursed in special books. They transmitted copies of the assessment to the Governor and Council and to the collectors. The commissioners of the tax continued to supervise the evaluation property and to appoint assessors.

County Commissioners Established

In 1827, the levy court of Baltimore County was abolished and replaced by a board of commissioners for the county. From time to time, similar steps were taken in other counties

until, finally, the Constitution of 1851 decreed that all remaining levy courts be styled "county commissioners." Meanwhile, the commissioners of the tax had also been gradually replaced by the county commissioners or by the levy courts first and then by the county commissioners.

Thus, the county commissioners inherited the powers and duties of both bodies, the most important of which were the levying and collection of taxes. For some years, the commissioners were solely responsible for supervising the assessment of property. However in 1914, the State Tax Commission was created and the office of supervisor of assessments established in each county; the purpose being to attain greater uniformity in assessment and taxation throughout the State. Since then the county commissioners and the State Tax Commission (now Department of Assessments and Taxation) have shared this responsibility.

The manner in which taxes were collected has varied from county to county, but at present, every county has a county treasurer, who collects State and county taxes and disburses county funds on order of the commissioners. In several counties the treasurer also serves as clerk of the commissioners.

In certain respects the jurisdiction of the county commissioners has been curtailed. Their authority over roads was considerably reduced in 1908 when the State Roads Commission was created and assigned control of the major highways of the State. Since 1933, the county welfare boards operating under the State Board of Welfare (originally known as the Board of State Aid and Charities) have assumed many of the administrative duties formerly exercised in this field by the commissioners. However, the commissioners appoint the members of the county boards, appropriate funds to pay the county's share of the cost, operate the county almshouse and have the authority to commit individuals to various hospitals and institutions at the expense of the county.

The county commissioners were constituted as *ex officio* boards of health in 1886, but were relieved of this responsibility in 1914, when the State Department of Health was established. The jurisdiction of the commissioners in the field of education has always been limited. They now levy taxes to meet the budget of the county board of education although they have in fact little control over the amount budgeted or the manner in which it is spent.

On the other hand, the county commissioners have in recent years become involved either directly or indirectly in a wide range of activities, including water supply and sanitation, police and fire protection, planning and zoning, issuing building permits, issuing liquor and other licenses, inspection of buildings, garbage disposal, recreation and so forth.

In an effort to reduce the amount of local legislation introduced at each session coincident to this increased activity, the General Assembly in 1918 adopted general provisions for the establishment of chartered counties, giving them broad powers of self-government. The counties showed little interest at first, but finally, in 1948, Baltimore County adopted a charter government. Montgomery County followed suit in 1956 and Anne Arundel and other counties are now considering similar plans.

ORPHANS' COURT

During the colonial period, the settlement of the estates of deceased persons was under the jurisdiction of a central probate court called the Prerogative Court. The presiding officer of the court was known as the Commissary General. He appointed a deputy commissary in each county to handle the routine details involved in settling estates. The records of the Prerogative Court have been well preserved and are now available at the Hall of Records. A study of this court and list of its records appears in *Land Office and Prerogative Court Records of Colonial Maryland* by Elisabeth Hartsook and Gust Skordas. (Annapolis, 1946. Publication No. 4 of the Hall of Records Commission.)

Although the Constitution of 1776 provided for the appointment of a register of wills in each county, it made no other provision for the administration of probate matters. This omission was remedied by Chapter 8 of the Acts of February 1777, which abolished the office of Commissary General and established an orphans' court in each county with the same powers and duties within their several counties that were previously exercised by the Commissary General. This included taking probate of wills, granting letters testamentary or letters of administration, appointing appraisers of estates, passing the accounts of executors and administrators, appointing guardians and in general protecting the rights of legatees and orphans.

The register of wills served as clerk of the orphans' court. He recorded the proceedings of the court and the wills, inventories, accounts and other papers filed in the process of settling estates. He was also authorized to perform certain routine duties when court was not in session.

Originally, five to seven justices of the peace were commissioned by the Governor as justices of the orphans' court. In 1790, the number of justices was reduced to three to be appointed from any of the residents of the county. The register of wills was also appointed by the Governor until 1851 when both offices were made elective.

The powers and responsibilities of the orphans' courts and the registers of wills have remained about the same from the time they were created. Even the Act of 1798 which repealed all prior laws and recodified the entire body of testamentary law did not make any major changes. It has served as the basic law in probate matters ever since. Subsequent legislation has tended to bestow increased authority upon the register of wills during the recess of the orphans' court, but otherwise has not greatly affected the jurisdiction of the court.

II. BASIC COUNTY RECORDS

The functions and responsibilities of the several county offices whose records are listed in this volume are essentially the same from county to county. It is only natural therefore that the records which reflect the activities of these offices should also be similar. Thus, every register of wills has in his custody Wills, Inventories, Guardian Accounts and numerous other record series that are created in the course of settling the estates of deceased persons. In similar fashion, each clerk of court has certain characteristic records, such as, Land Records, Judgments and Court Minutes.

However, the manner and form in which such records are kept may vary from county to county. For example, Guardian Accounts may appear as a separate series in one county, may be combined with Administration Accounts in another county or may be recorded among the Orphans Court Proceedings of a third county. In each case the record is basically the same.

To describe such basic records as they occur in county after county would be needlessly repetitious. For this reason, it has been deemed advisable to describe in detail the key records of each county office included in this volume. Thus, when the records of each individual office are listed, it will be necessary to describe only those items which have unusual characteristics or which have not been previously described.

Basic Records of the Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS (DEEDS)

Primarily a record of instruments pertaining to real property, such as, deeds, assignments, leases, mortgages, releases of mortgages, powers of attorney, agreements and rights-of-way. In addition, the earlier volumes served as a sort of catch-all in which various other instruments were recorded. Some of these were eventually established as separate series, as for example, chattel mortgages, bills of sale, indentures of apprenticeship, manumissions of slaves, commissions and qualifications of civil officers, vital records and incorporations of church, social and business organizations. Other instruments found recorded in this series are cattle marks, certificates of strays, records of convicts brought to Maryland as servants, certificates of importation or removal of slaves, publications of freight rates, proofs of age and election returns.

MORTGAGES

As indicated above, mortgages were originally recorded in the Land Records. In some counties, mortgages have been established as a separate series; in others they are recorded in separate volumes, but numbered seriatim with the Land Records.

LAND COMMISSIONS

Record of proceedings of commissioners appointed to reestablish the boundaries of tracts of land where the original boundary markers have disappeared. (See Chapter 45, 1715; Chapter 9, 1717; Chapter 8, 1723.) Often, a plat of the tract is part of the record. In most counties, Land Commissions are recorded in special volumes, but in some instances, they may be found in the Land Records or Judgments.

COMMISSIONS TO DIVIDE ESTATES (DIVISION OF ESTATES, COMMISSION DOCKETS)

Record of the proceedings of commissioners appointed to evaluate and divide intestates' estates in cases where the parties entitled to shares cannot agree on the division. If the estate did not lend itself to equitable division, the commissioners could sell it and divide the proceeds. (Chapter 45, 1786.)

TAX SALES

Record of proceedings in the sale of real estate to enforce the payment of taxes. Chapter 577 of the Acts of 1892 required that such proceedings be entered in a special book and indexed.

PLATS (PLAT BOOKS, PLAT RECORDS)

Record of plans or drawings of tracts of land, subdivisions, towns, rights-of-way, etc. filed for recording usually in conjunction with conveyances. In most counties, the early plats were recorded in the Land Records along with the deeds to which they related. More recently plats have been recorded in various ways. The originals may be filed in cabinets or they may be copied into special books either by hand or by photostat, blueprint or other duplicating process.

PLATS (PLAT BOOKS, PLAT RECORDS) STATE ROADS COMMISSION

Record of plats filed by the State Roads Commission showing property or rights-of-way acquired or conveyed by the Commission (See Chapter 458, Acts of 1933).

COURT MINUTES (MINUTE BOOKS)

Record of the proceedings of the court at each term of court. Typically, the record begins with the style of court which states the date and place of meeting and lists the names of the justices present and perhaps the county sheriff and clerk of court. Also listed are the members of the grand jury and petit jury. This is followed by presentments and indictments, rules and orders of the court, admissions of attorneys, qualifications of civil officers, naturalizations and other routine business of the court.

During the colonial period and the few years thereafter when the court served as the executive body of the county, the minutes also record the administrative actions of the court, such as, expenditure of county funds, assessment of taxes, appointment of constables, coroners, road overseers and other county officials, issuance of licenses to keep ordinaries and sell liquors, establishment of tavern rates and so forth.

JUDGMENTS (COURT PROCEEDINGS, COURT RECORDS, SHORT ENTRIES OF JUDGMENTS, SHORT JUDGMENTS)

In its simplest form, this is a record of criminal and civil cases tried before the county court. The style of court usually appears at the beginning of each term of Court. In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries this record was kept in considerable detail. Quite often it also included the minutes of the court, as described above.

Early in the nineteenth century the number of cases tried by the county courts had increased to such an extent that the clerks were having difficulty recording them all. By Chapter 119 of the Acts of 1817, it was directed that for the future "No clerk shall record any judgment or decree except those relating to the title of lands, or those under which lands have been sold in virtue of an execution thereon." Other judgments were not to be recorded unless

so required in writing by one of the interested parties. All other cases were to be entered in docket-like volumes which contained merely a bare outline of the actions taken in each case and the final decision. This record was called, "Short Entries of Judgments" or "Short Judgments."

JUDGMENTS SATISFIED

Record of judgments entered as satisfied upon written order of plaintiff or his attorney as provided by Chapter 96 of the Acts of 1840.

DOCKETS (COURT DOCKETS, OFFICE DOCKETS)

Calendar of various actions brought before the court with entries in brief of all the important actions taken in each case from its beginning to its conclusion. For each term of court the entries are grouped under appropriate headings: trials, references, imparlances, appeals, petitions, appearances or originals, judicials, chancery or equity, commissions, criminal appearances, criminal continuances and criminal trials. Duplicate copies of the official docket were sometimes prepared for the use of the judges, the state's attorney or the clerk of court. These will not be listed unless they replace missing volumes of the official docket or otherwise supplement the record. Although the form of indexing varies considerably, it is rare that a docket has no index at all.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS (CRIMINAL BUSINESS, CRIMINAL BOOK)

Record of proceedings of the county court in criminal cases. The early criminal cases were entered along with civil cases in Judgments, but in some counties a separate record was eventually established for criminal proceedings.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS

Calendar and brief record of criminal cases acted upon in each term of court. These too were originally contained in the Dockets along with civil cases and later separated in some counties.

STET DOCKETS

Brief record of cases that have been removed from the Court Docket because they have remained inactive over a period of years. Although stet cases are subject to being reactivated, they rarely are.

REFERENCE DOCKETS

Brief record of cases that have been referred to arbitrators by consent of parties concerned or counsel and by rule of court. (See Section 8, Chapter 21, Acts of 1778 and Section 11, Chapter 80, Acts of 1785.)

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKETS

Brief record of miscellaneous court actions, including tax sales, habeas corpus proceedings, mandamus proceedings, lunacy commitments, registration and disqualification of voters, remonstrances, condemnation proceedings, protests against issuance of licenses, receiverships and adoption of children.

BOND RECORDS (BONDS)

Record of all types of bonds filed with clerks of courts or given or taken in any court proceedings or actions, either in law or equity. Chapter 516 of the Acts of 1902 required such

bonds to be recorded in well-bound books with an alphabetical index. Earlier bonds may be found in Land Records or Court Proceedings.

SUPERSEDEAS

Record of stays of executions issued by clerks of court as authorized by several laws. (See Chapter 67, 1791; Chapter 202, 1809; Chapter 178, 1813; Chapter 84, 1814; Chapter 132, 1860.)

EQUITY RECORDS (CHANCERY RECORDS)

Record of equity cases tried before the county court. Jurisdiction over major equity cases was originally exercised by the Chancery Court of Maryland. The few equity cases that were brought before the county courts were recorded with the law cases. In 1815, the county courts were conferred concurrent jurisdiction in equity with the Chancery Court (Chapter 94, Acts of 1814). Thereafter, equity cases became an increasingly important part of the business of the county court and separate records were established for such cases. The State Chancery Court was abolished in 1851, leaving all equity matters in the hands of the county courts.

EQUITY DOCKETS (CHANCERY DOCKETS)

Calendar and brief record of equity cases brought before the county court.

DIVORCES

Record of proceedings in divorce cases; separated from Equity Records by direction of Chapter 404 of the Acts of 1908.

CLAIMS DOCKETS

Record of claims of creditors in cases of voluntary trusts, under decrees for payments of debts or in other cases where claims have been proven in court. (See Chapter 322, Acts of 1886.)

TRUSTEES BONDS

Record of bonds taken by trustees appointed to sell estates.

INSOLVENT RECORDS (INSOLVENT DEBTORS)

Record of proceedings in insolvency cases, which were required to be recorded under the provisions of Chapter 28 of the Acts of 1774, Chapter 110 of the Acts of 1805, Chapter 172 of the Acts of 1880 and other acts regulating such matters. The Act of 1880 required clerks to record insolvency proceedings in books to be called "Insolvent Record."

INSOLVENT DOCKETS

Brief record of proceedings in insolvency cases.

NATURALIZATION

Record of the naturalization of aliens. This was accomplished by various procedures during the colonial period: by the issuance of patents of naturalization by the Lord Proprietor or the Governor, by the passage of special acts of assembly or by compliance with procedures established by English statutes.

Soon after the State Constitution was adopted in 1776, the Assembly provided that foreigners could become naturalized by going before the Governor and Council, the General Court or any of its judges or any county court and taking the prescribed oath (Chapter 6, Acts of July 1779).

Upon the adoption of the Federal Constitution, the regulation of naturalization procedures became a responsibility of the National Government. However, Congress found it convenient to employ the local courts as its agents in handling such matters and by an Act of 1790 bestowed the power of naturalization upon any common law court of record. In Maryland, naturalization proceedings were for the most part handled by the circuit courts and, after 1851, by any of the Baltimore City Courts. They were usually recorded among the minutes of the courts, although, in some instances, special records were kept.

In 1906, naturalization procedures were reorganized by federal law and placed under the Division of Naturalization of the Department of Commerce and Labor. In the counties, the circuit courts continued to act as agents for the federal government, although in recent years there has been a tendency to concentrate this activity in the larger counties. In Baltimore City jurisdiction over naturalization was assigned exclusively to the Court of Common Pleas and the records previously created by the other city courts turned over to it. Since about 1930, naturalization has come under the control of the Federal District Court of Baltimore City and it is expected that the records now in the custody of the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas will eventually be claimed by the District Court.

The records created under the Act of 1906 were kept in special books, as follows:

DECLARATION OF INTENTION (RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION)

Record of aliens who have declared their intention of becoming citizens of the United States.

PETITION AND RECORD (PETITIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP, PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION)

Full record of proceedings in the naturalization of aliens.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION

Stubs of certificates issued to aliens who have been naturalized.

CORPORATION RECORDS (CORPORATIONS, RECORD OF INCORPORATIONS, CHARTERS)

Record of charters, amendments and other papers relating to the incorporation of religious, social and business organizations. The earliest general incorporation procedures applied to religious organizations only (Chapter 111, Acts of 1802). From time to time similar procedures were established for other types of organizations. In most counties, the early incorporations were entered in the Land Records or Chattel Records, but by 1870 practically all counties had separate corporation records.

MARRIAGE LICENSES (MARRIAGE RECORDS, RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES)

Originally, a record of marriage licenses issued by the clerk of the county court under the provisions of Chapter 12 of the Acts of February 1777. The information given includes the date the license was issued, the names of the male and female and occasionally the name

of the minister to whom the license was directed. The record was kept very carefully because each clerk was required to account for the fees he received in payment for the licenses. No indication is given as to whether the marriage was ever performed.

In 1865, an act was passed providing for the registration of births, marriages and deaths (Chapter 130, Acts of 1865). It was made the duty of the clerks of the circuit court for the several counties and the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas of Baltimore City to record this information in specially prepared books that were furnished them by the Secretary of the Senate. The Record of Marriages was to give the date and place of marriage, name, residence and official station of the minister, name, age, color, residence, marital status and occupation of each party, and date of record. This record was indifferently kept in some counties and the Act was eventually repealed in 1882.

The systematic registration of marriages was finally accomplished by the passage of Chapter 497 of the Acts of 1886. The information given is essentially the same as required by the Act of 1865 with the addition of the date the license was issued.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES (AFFIDAVITS OF APPLICANTS)

Record of names, places of residence, ages, color and relationship, if any, of parties applying for marriage licenses as required by Chapter 497 of the Acts of 1886.

RECORD OF BIRTHS

Register of births recorded under the provisions of Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1865; gives date and place of birth, name of child, sex, color, names of parents, father's occupation and date of recording. In most counties, this record was poorly kept.

RECORD OF DEATHS

Register of deaths recorded under the provisions of Chapter 130 of the Acts of 1865; gives date of death, name, sex, color, marital status, age, residence, occupation, place of death, place of birth, parents' names, residence of parents, cause of death, place of burial and date of recording. Usually contains only a few entries.

ELECTION RETURNS (RECORD OF ELECTION RETURNS)

Record of returns of elections transmitted to the clerks of the circuit courts or the Clerk of the Superior Court of Baltimore City as required by law (Section 76, Chapter 202, Acts of 1896).

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS (REGISTER OF INTENT, RECORD OF INTENT TO BECOME CITIZENS, CITIZENSHIP RECORDS)

Register of persons declaring their intent to become residents of Maryland (Chapter 133, Acts of 1902; Chapter 540, Acts of 1916). The law requiring such declaration was repealed by Chapter 421 of the Acts of 1949.

AFFIDAVITS OF TEMPORARY REMOVAL (AFFIDAVITS OF PERSONS LEAVING STATE TEMPORARILY, DECLARATION OF VOTERS TO RETURN TO STATE)

Record of affidavits filed by persons leaving the state temporarily, asserting they do not intend thereby to change their legal residence and declaring their intent to return to the State on or before six months preceding the next November election (Chapter 2, Acts of 1901;

Chapter 285, Acts of 1908). The law requiring the above affidavits was repealed by Chapter 934 of the Acts of 1945.

POLL BOOKS

Reports of the results of elections held in the several election districts of each county, giving date, place and purpose of election, certificate of qualification of judges and clerks, list of persons who voted and return of results. Earlier Poll Books—those dating before the adoption of the secret ballot in Maryland—also show how each individual voted.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS (COMMISSIONS, COMMISSION BOOKS)

Record of civil commissions issued by the Governor and transmitted by the Secretary of State to the clerks of the circuit courts to be delivered to the persons residing within their respective counties (See Chapter 284, Acts of 1843). The commissions were recorded in the Court Minutes and Land Records as well as in special volumes.

TEST BOOKS (OATHS OF OFFICE, BOOK OF OATHS)

Record of subscribers to the oaths of office required to be taken by persons appointed or elected to offices of profit or trust, including justices of the peace, clerks of court, sheriffs, coroners, notaries public and attorneys (See Chapter 5, Acts of February 1777; Chapter 82, Acts of 1814; Chapter 172, Acts of 1852). Early oaths were sometimes entered in Court Minutes or Land Records, but usually special books were kept for this purpose.

MANUMISSIONS

Record of Negro slaves set free by owners. The procedure for doing so was first regulated by Chapter 1 of the Acts of 1752, which required that deeds of manumission be recorded among the records of the clerk of the county court. In most counties they were entered in the Land Records. Chapter 67 of the Acts of 1796 repealed and reenacted the laws relating to Negroes. It required, among other things, that manumissions be enrolled in a good and sufficient book, regularly alphabeted by the names of both parties.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM

Record of certificates issued by the clerk of the county court to free Negroes, attesting that the bearer had furnished satisfactory proof of his freedom. The certificates included name of Negro, brief physical description, name of former owner, if any, and date issued. (See Chapter 66, Acts of 1805).

LIST OF FREE NEGROES, 1832

Census of free Negroes taken by the sheriff and delivered to the clerk of the county court as required by Chapter 281 of the Acts of 1831. This was part of the movement to colonize the free Negroes of Maryland in Liberia.

SLAVE STATISTICS

Register of slaves in each county on November 1, 1864, made under the provisions of Chapter 189 of the Acts of 1867. It gives name of owner, name of slave, age, sex, physical condition, time of servitude, if enlisted or drafted into military service, regiment and compensation paid owner. It is arranged alphabetically by name of owner within each election district.

TOBACCO INSPECTION RECORDS

Record of proceedings of the justices of the county courts at meetings held for the purpose of designating the location of tobacco warehouses, building and repairing them when necessary, nominating tobacco inspectors for appointment by the governor, approving of bonds of inspectors, examining their accounts and conducting other activities relating to the inspection of tobacco. (See Chapter 1, Acts of 1747; Chapter 26, Acts of 1789).

ORIGINAL PAPERS

A wide variety of original documents may be found among the records of the clerks of the circuit courts and of the Baltimore City courts. Many of these papers are recorded or otherwise noted in the volume records described above. Typical examples of these papers are original deeds, mortgages, land commissions, corporation charters, civil commissions, bonds, returns of marriage licenses, election returns and so forth.

In addition, there are numerous other papers that relate to court cases or actions. Practically none of the papers dating before 1800 have survived, except for sizeable collections for Somerset and Frederick Counties. This may be due in part to the fact that court cases were recorded in full in the early Judgments and Court Proceedings and thus there was less need to preserve the papers. No doubt, the normal attrition of time has also been a factor in this loss.

Since the passage of Chapter 119 of the Acts of 1817, which directed that only certain types of cases be recorded, the tendency has been to do less and less recording. The result has been that the papers have become increasingly important and, for this reason, better preserved. There are two principal types of court papers:

1. Law Papers, which consist of various papers filed in civil or criminal cases or actions.
2. Equity Papers, which consist of papers and exhibits filed in equity cases.

In listing the original papers, principal attention will be concentrated on these two series.

Basic Records of the Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES OF THE ORPHANS COURT)

Record of the orders, decisions, actions and other proceedings of the Orphans' Court. In some counties, the early volumes of this record also served as a place for recording such instruments as guardian bonds, indentures and certificates of freedom; later these were established as separate series.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKETS

Calendar and brief record of cases tried before the Orphans' Court.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKETS (ADMINISTRATION KEY, ESTATE DOCKETS)

Brief record of instruments filed in the settlement of estates. Earlier records vary from county to county as to both title and content, but usually list the names of the decedent and his executor or administrator, and give the date and reference to the recording of certain key instruments, such as administration bonds, inventories and administration accounts.

Under the provisions of Chapter 34 of the Acts of 1908, the Register of Wills was "required to keep a proper docket showing the grant of letters testamentary or of administration and a short entry of every paper or proceedings filed in the Orphans' Court . . . . and every

order of courts or register setting forth the nature of such paper or proceedings, with proper references to the place of recording the same . . . ." In most counties these are called Estate Dockets.

PETITIONS AND ORDERS

Record of petitions to and orders of Orphans' Courts in the settlement of estates.

WILLS

Record of wills of deceased persons probated in the Orphans' Court.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS (ADMINISTRATORS AND EXECUTORS BONDS)

Record of bonds entered into by administrators and executors requiring that they faithfully perform their duties in the settlement of estates.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY

Record of letters testamentary issued by Orphans' Courts to executors of wills committing to them the administration of the estates of deceased persons.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION

Record of letters of administration issued by Orphans' Court authorizing administrators to proceed with the settlement of estates of deceased persons.

INVENTORIES (LISTS OF DEBTS, INVENTORIES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, INVENTORIES OF REAL ESTATE)

Record of appraisements of the personal property and lists of debts due to decedents. Since 1848, the appraisers appointed to appraise personal property have also been required to evaluate real estate (Ch. 222, 1847). The earliest appraisements of real estate were simply recorded as totals in Orphans' Court Proceedings, but from time to time various counties began to record them in full in Inventories. More recently, some counties have established this as a separate series.

APPRAISERS WARRANTS

Record of warrants issued to appraisers authorizing them to prepare inventories of the personal property and real estate of deceased persons.

ACCOUNT OF SALES (ACCOUNT SALES)

Record of sales of the personal property listed in the inventories of decedents. Often recorded in Inventories, but sometimes found as a separate series.

ACCOUNTS (ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS)

Record of accounts filed by executors and administrators stating the value of decedents' estates and listing the payments made to creditors and to satisfy other charges against the estates. Often this record also shows the disposition of the balances remaining in estates among the heirs, but this information may be entered in a separate record called "Distributions." (See below.)

DISTRIBUTIONS

Record showing how the balances remaining in estates after all claims have been satisfied are distributed among the heirs. (See also Accounts.)

GUARDIAN BONDS

Record of bonds entered into by guardians, requiring that they keep safe and secure all the estate belonging to the ward and that they deliver it to the ward as directed by the laws regulating such matters. These are sometimes recorded in Orphans Court Proceedings.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS

Record of accounts filed annually by guardians, stating balances due wards from estates or from accounts filed previously, listing receipts and payments made and stating current balances due wards.

GUARDIAN DOCKETS (GUARDIAN KEY)

Brief record of guardianships, giving date, name of ward and guardian, date of each account returned by guardian and final balance due to ward.

CLAIMS DOCKET (CLAIMS REGISTER, PASSED CLAIMS, VOUCHER DOCKET, DOCKET OF ACCOUNTS, CLAIMS LIST, CLAIMANTS DOCKET, ACCOUNTS AGAINST ESTATES)

Record of claims against decedents passed by the Register of Wills in the recess of the Orphans' Court, giving date passed, name of creditor, character of claim and amount. This record was first required by Chapter 86 of the Acts of 1854.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES (RELEASES)

Receipts of heirs, wards and others acknowledging they have received money and property to which they are entitled and releasing executors, administrators and guardians from further responsibility.

EQUITY RECORDS (CHANCERY RECORDS, REAL ESTATE RECORDS, ACCOUNTS OF SALES OF REAL ESTATE IN EQUITY)

Record of equity cases tried under the provisions of Chapter 162 of the Acts of 1865, which gave the Orphans' Courts concurrent jurisdiction with the Circuit Courts with authority to direct the sales of real estate of intestates where the appraised value did not exceed fifteen hundred dollars. The limitation was increased to twenty-five hundred dollars the following year (Chapter 81, Acts of 1866).

EQUITY DOCKETS (CHANCERY DOCKETS, REAL ESTATE DOCKETS, LAND SALES DOCKET)

Calendar and brief record of equity cases tried before the Orphans' Courts.

INDENTURES

Record of orphans and other children bound as apprentices. During the colonial period and briefly thereafter the county courts exercised certain responsibilities with respect to

orphans among them the binding of apprentices; thus, indentures of apprenticeship may also be found among the records of the county courts. In 1793, the General Assembly adopted an act to improve the regulation of apprentices, which placed this responsibility solely in the hands of the orphans courts and required that indentures be recorded among their records (Ch. 45, 1793). By Chapter 186 of the Acts of 1927, the entire body of law relating to apprentices was repealed with the obvious purpose of bringing an end to this practice.

CERTIFICATES TO FREE NEGROES

Record of certificates issued by registers of wills to Negroes proving that they had been set free from slavery by the wills of their former owners. The names, sex and a brief physical description of the Negro and the name of the former owner are given in each certificate.

ANNUAL VALUATIONS

Record of returns of persons appointed to view and estimate the annual value of real estate belonging to minors. Returns give a physical description of the land and improvements, including the dimensions of the houses.

Basic Records of the County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT (MINUTES OF THE LEVY COURT)

Record of the proceedings of the Levy Courts.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS)

Record of the proceedings of the County Commissioners.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TAX

Record of proceedings of the Commissioners of the Tax.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND REVIEW

Record of proceedings of the County Commissioners acting as boards of control and review to examine and correct, if necessary, returns of assessable property. (See Chapter 120, Acts of 1896 and Chapter 300, Acts of 1910).

LEVY LISTS (LEVY BOOKS, LEVY)

Itemized lists of county expenditures, showing total amount required and levying the county tax rate for the year.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS (ASSESSMENTS, ASSESSMENT RECORDS)

Record of assessment of taxable property. General assessments of property were required by laws enacted in 1841, 1852, 1866, 1876, 1897 and 1910.

ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS

Record of assessment of taxable property made by tax assessors in the field.

General Indexes

General indexes give references to an entire record series, or at least a substantial portion of it. They are listed separately, usually following the records to which they apply.

LIBER INDEX

The earliest general indexes were made by combining the indexes to the individual volumes in such fashion that all the index entries for each letter of the alphabet were grouped together. Thus, the reference sequence would be as follows: "A"s for Volume 1, "A"s for Volume 2, "A"s for Volume 3 and so on. (See illustration.)

BURR RECORD INDEX

In this index, the entries are divided into sub-alphabetical groups under each letter of the alphabet. For example, the names that begin with the letter "J" would be segregated under the following headings: "JAA-JAC, JAE-JAL, JAM-JAP, JAQ-JAY, JE, JI, JOA-JOG, JOH-JOM, JON-JOP, JOR-JOY, JU, JY." These volumes are usually thumb-indexed. The entries are chronological within each group. (See illustration.)

VOWEL INDEX

This index is alphabetical by the initial of the surname and the first vowel that comes after the initial letter. For example, the letter "C" would have the following subdivisions: "CA", "CE", "CI", "CO", "CU" and "CY". Under the heading "CA", one might find such names as, Campbell, Craig or Chandler. (See illustration.)

CAMPBELL INDEX

Under this system the names to be indexed are arranged alphabetically by initial letter of the surname and by initial letter of the given name. Thus, the names **J**ohn **B**rooke, **J**ames **B**arrett and **J**ane **B**ower would all appear on the same page in chronological sequence. By consulting the alphabetical key sheets in front of the index volume, the searcher can locate immediately the page on which the names beginning with the initials "J.B." may be found. (See illustration.)

RUSSELL INDEX

In this index, surnames are arranged on the basis of certain key letters following the initial letter of the name. The key letters are "L, M, N, R, T". All other letters are ignored. For example, in indexing persons whose surnames begin with the letter "C", the following names would be listed under the key letter "M": Ca**m**p, Coff**m**an, Cush**m**an, Chap**m**an. Names such as Carr, Creecy, Cubberly, Coke**r** would appear under the key letter "R". Within each key letter group, the given names are arranged alphabetically by initial letter in much the same fashion as they are in a Campbell index. (See illustration.)

Certain frequently recurring surnames are indexed on special pages in the rear of each index volume with cross references given on the pages where the names would normally appear. (See illustration.)

COTT INDEXES

The Cott Index Company manufactures an almost infinite variety of indexes, but these may be consolidated into four basic groups.

1. Cott Key Table

This group may be readily identified by the complete table of alphabetical references printed at the top of every page in the index. (See illustration.)

2. Cottco Universal

In this group, the alphabet is divided into a number of sections or "units", each of which is independent of the other and may be entered in a separate binder. Usually, however, several units are combined within a single volume. Each unit is made up of the following elements: (1) A tab sheet marking the beginning of the unit and showing just what letter of the alphabet or what part of a letter it covers. (2) A buff sub-index sheet giving a page reference to every possible combination of letters within the unit with which a surname might start and to every "set-out" name. "Set-out" names are those that occur with sufficient frequency to justify assigning them a special page. (3) The entry sheets numbered to correspond with the sub-index sheet. (See illustration.)

3. Cott Family Name

This group is so-designated because every family name or surname is given a separate entry page. This index too is divided into "units" of the alphabet with each "unit" preceded by buff subindex sheets that show the pages on which the names appear. Tab sheets identify each unit. In physical makeup, the volumes of this index are half the size of the other index volumes, being nine inches long on the binding side as compared to eighteen inches for the others. (See illustration.)

4. Cott Guide Letter

This group is based on the same principle as the Russell index. (See above.)

PAUL COMPANY KEY TABLE INDEX

The names in this index are arranged alphabetically by the first three letters of the surname only. Thus, all surnames beginning with the letters "DAS" would appear in one group, those beginning with "DAT" in another group. Within each group the names are entered in chronological order. A Key table giving a page reference to each letter group is fastened inside the front cover of every volume. (See illustration.)

VOLUME 13 May 1772 to Aug 1774

V Gilpin Joseph	Pet.	Henry Hollis	Bef Sale	36
Gillespie William	"	Howard Price	Auditor	172
V Gilpin Samuel	"	Howard Price	Power of Atty	175
V Gilpin Joseph	"	Henry Baker	Auditor	228
V Gillespie James	"	John Ewing	Auditor	322
V Glenn Samuel	"	Benjamin Biddle	Auditor	341
V George Joshua	"	Jedidiah George	Auditor	381

VOLUME 14

Aug 1774 to Dec 1779

V Grubb Thomas	Pet.	Robert Bodkin	Bef Sale	10
V Grubb Thomas	"	John Cook	Auditor	13
V Gibson Robert	"	Samuel McCrea	Bef Sale	61
V Gilpin Samuel	"	Henry Hollingsworth	Auditor	72
V Gilpin Joseph	"	Henry Hollingsworth	Auditor	73
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Glenn Edward and Ob.		Valuation of Their Estate		337

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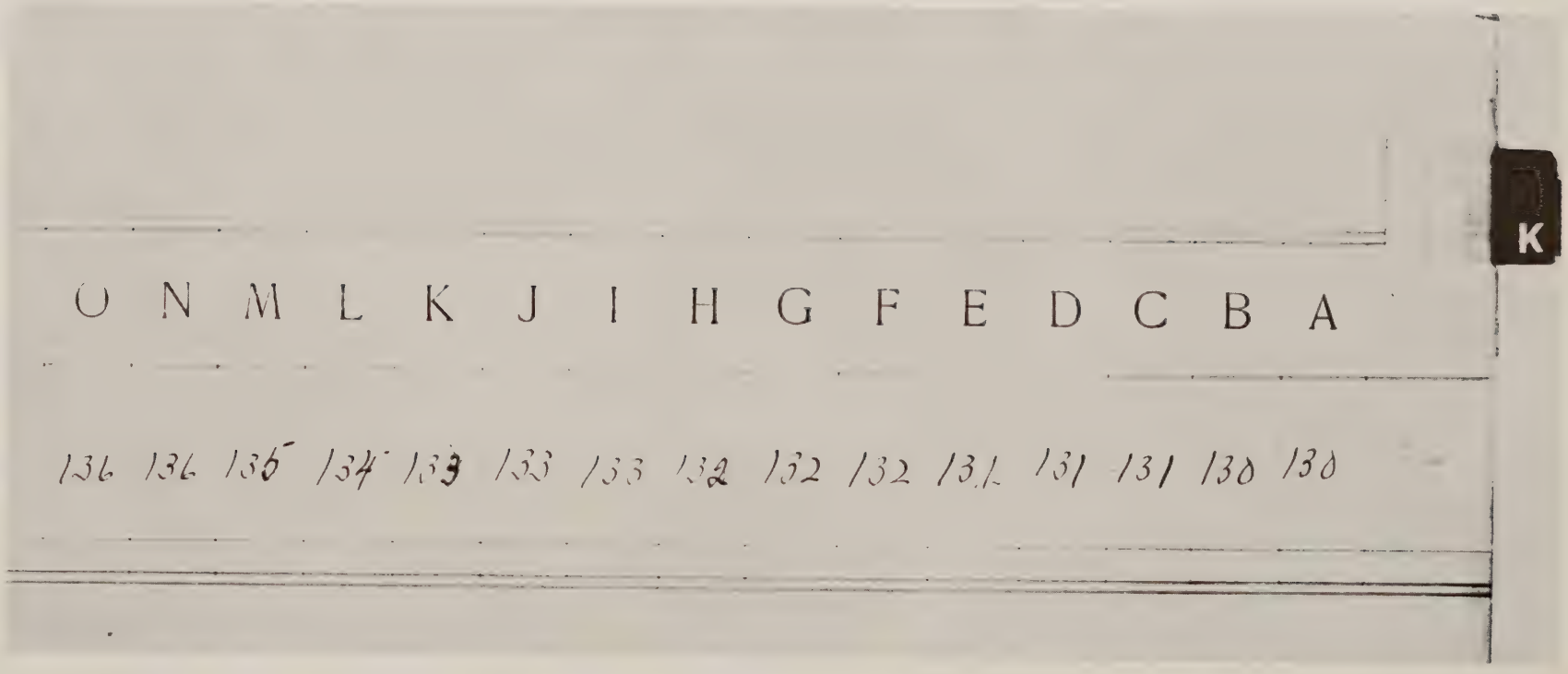
V ~~George Jedidiah~~		~~Notice of Stay~~		72
V George Robert	Pet.	Jedidiah George	Bef Sale	82

SURNAME		CHRISTIAN NAME	LIBER	No.	FOLIO	REMARKS
AU						
Austin	Miss	Annie O'Dell	J.R.B.	16	437	
Augusta	Col'd	Henry	"	7	12	
Abraham		Edgar V.	JAS	22	497	
Austin		Sallie B	J.R.B.	23	941	
Austin		Walter F.	R.R.B.	28	72	
AV-X						
Avery		Janet C	JAS	2	10	
Avery		David C.	J.R.B.	27	231	For Record
AY-Z						
Ayres		Laura E	JAS.	21		

AS
AT
AU
AV

AW
AX
AY
AZ

Burr's Record Index. Talbot County.



Campbell Index, Guide Sheet. Montgomery County.

LIBER.	No.	FOLIO.	TESTATOR.	EXECUTOR OR ADMINISTRATOR.	DATE OF PROBATE.
			K. A.		
H.C.A	No. 2	48	Kirk Annie T.	Robert Tyson & Samuel Hynson	December 9 [illegible]
H.C.A	No. [illegible]	92	Kinnan, Arthur F	Ida May Kinnan	May 2 [illegible]
H.C.A	No. 19	314	Kilgore Alexander		May 1 [illegible]
H.C.A.	No. 26	127	Kalbert, Anna S.	American Security & Trust Co.	August 23, 1921
P.E.W	No. 2	271	Kingan, Anna M.	Frances Young, Marian Young & Clyde D. Garrett	Nov. 25, 1924
P.E.W	No. 9	380	Knapp, Alexander Payne	Safe Deposit & Trust Co. of Balto.	September 20, [illegible]
P.E.W	No. 20	198	King, Anna J.	Webster V. Burdette & Nellie H. Burdette	Sept. 29, 1931
H.G.C.	No. 5	49	King, Anna Elizabeth	Katherine Carroll King	March 7, 1933.
H.G.C.	No. 17	470	Kennedy, Alice M.	Robert Mayo & George Thorne	January 18, 1938
			King, Alma C., filed by James Albert King, March 10, 1939. Not to be probated.		
			M. E.		
H.C.A	No. 8	385	Klein Bernhard	Augustus Klein	December 19, 1910
H.C.A	No. 9	2	Klein Bernhard	Augustus Klein	December 9 [illegible]
H.G.C.	No. 23	455	Kelley, Benjamin H	Ira C. Whitacre	September 12, 1939

Campbell Index, Entry Sheet. Montgomery County.

TO LOCATE NAMES IN THE INDEX

Determine the first and second Key-letters after the initial letter in the Surname. In the column headed by the Given Name initial of the name for which you are searching, and opposite the Key-Letters contained in the Surname, the number of the section is designated where the name will be found. Duplications of the same Key-letter are disregarded. Surnames, not containing a Key-letter, are found in the sections designated by the numbers opposite "Misc." All names other than those of individuals are found in the sections designated by the numbers in the column headed "Corps., Etc.", and opposite the Key-letters contained in the first word of the name, disregarding the article "The."

GIVEN NAME INITIALS AND SECTION NUMBERS

KEY-LETTERS	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	HI	J
LM	110	210	310	410	510	610	710	810	910
LN	110	210	310	410	510	610	710	810	910
LR	110	210	310	410	510	610	710	810	910
LT	110	210	310	410	510	610	710	810	910
M									
ML	120	220	320	420	520	620	720	820	920
MN	120	220	320	420	520	620	720	820	920
MR	120	220	320	420	520	620	720	820	920
MT	120	220	320	420	520	620	720	820	920
N									
NL	130	230	330	430	530	630	730	830	930

Russell Index, Guide to Key Letters. Montgomery County.

GRANTEES AND MORTGAGEES

l-m-n-r-t Reg. U.S. Pat. Off.

"Russell Index"—Made by Russell Index Company, Pittsburgh, Pa. (Order 948-E)

The following Names are those which have been transferred from this section to the section designated by the number opposite the Name. If the Name for which you are searching is not among those transferred, search those contained in this section.

	Section	Page		Section	Page		Section	Page
CLARK-E	2010							
CLAGETT-CLAGGETT	2034							
COLLINS-COLLINGS	2035							

Date of Record Month Day Year	Grantee or Mortgagee		Grantor or Mortgagor		Kind of Instrument	Recorded Liber	Recorded Folio
JAN 3 1947	CHALKLEY	HAROLD W	GEO CALVERT BOWIE SUR TRUS		RELEASE	1055	228
JAN 13 1947	CULLISON	IDA C	RUBIN M STEIN	UX	DEED	1051	311
JAN 17 1947	CZESKLEBA	IRWIN V	J HAMPTON JONES JR		DEED	1058	280
MAR 3 1947	COLE	HELEN G	GEORGE W GILLIGAN TRUS	AL	RELEASE	1065	151
MAR 19 1947	COPPOLA	HELEN K	LOUIS C DISMER TRUS	AL	RELEASE	1070	7
MAY 13 1947	COWELL	IRMA	T HOWARD DUCKETT TRUS	AL	RELEASE	1073	327
MAY 21 1947	COWELL	IRMA	T HOWARD DUCKETT TRUS	AL	RELEASE	1077	373
MAY 28 1947	CLUM	HELEN VAN D	WASHINGTON LOAN & TRUST CO TRUS		DEED	1084	199
JUN 6 1947	COLE	HELEN H	GEORGE O KEPHART	UX	DEED	1086	21
JUN 11 1947	COLBURN	HENRIETTA C	ARCHIE D SARTWELL TRUS	AL	RELEASE	1080	419

Russell Index, Entry Sheet. Montgomery County.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS—1876 to 1917 Inclusive

WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

REFER TO KEY TABLE on opposite page, to find Name, which divides the names by First Letter of Surname, and first letter of Given Name.

Find **Corporations** in **T** to **Z** Book, page **367**; **Firms** page **507**; **B. and L. Assn's** page **519**.

DATE OF INST Mon. Day Year	NAMES SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	To or From	NAMES	KIND OF INSTRUMENT	WHERE RECORDED Book	No.	Page
Mar.21 1908	Edie	Una et vir	To	Henry P. Booz et ux	Deed	O.D.C.1	292	
Feb.2 1912	Edie	Una et vir	"	Henry P. Booz et ux	"	"	11	93
May 27 1892	Ewing	Virginia L. M.	From	The Sinepuxent Beach Co. of Balt.	Lease	F.H.P.9		174D
June2 "	Ewing	Virginia L. M.	"	The Sinepuxent Beach Co. of Balt.	"	"	"	204D
" 8 1903	Ewing	Virginia L. M.	To	Oscar M. Purnell	Deed	"	18	569
Apr.30 1907	Ennis	Virginia B. et al	"	William I. Ennis	"	"	27	415
Feb.15 1878	Ellis	William H.	To	Emory S. Bell	Mort.	I.T.M.6		50
Nov.1 1879	Ennis	William H.	From	Zadok P. Henry	Deed	"	7	348
June" 1881	Ennis	William W. et ux.	To	Tabitha A. Johnson	Mort.	"	8	368
" " "	Ennis	Whilmer W. et ux.	"	Covington Ennis	"	"	"	372
" " "	Ennis	Whilmer W.	From	Covington Ennis et ux.	Deed	"	"	374
May 12 1882	Ennis	William	"	Lemuel M. Hall	B.of S.	"	9	98
Aug.28 "	Ennis	William	"	John F. Fleming & wife	Deed	"	"	304
Dec.5 "	Ennis	Whilmer W. & wife	To	Oscar M. Purnell	"	"	"	317
" 6 "	Ennis	Whilmer J.	From	Oscar M. Purnell	"	"	"	364
Mar.21 1883	Ennis	Whilmer W. & wife	To	Stephen L. Purnell	Mort.	"	"	474
Apr.7 "	Ennis	William	"	Jane I. Hall	B.of S.	"	"	482
Aug.28 1882	Ennis	William & wife	"	John F. Fleming & wife	Deed	"	"	629

Cott Key Index, Left Page. Worcester County.

A	B	C	D	E	[illegible]	[illegible]	H	I	J	K-L	FIRST LETTER OF SURNAME	M	N-O	P-Q	R	S	T	U-V	W	X-Y-Z	CORPS. AND FIRMS	B. & L. ASSOCIATIONS
1	10	12	25	26	39	46	53	64	67	92	D	104	116	118	124	129	136	139	141	158	See T to Z Book	See T to Z Book
159	161	161	165	166	168	168	171	172	173	179	E	187	189	190	191	192	193	194	194	196		
197	202	203	207	210	218	218	221	223	224	233	F	236	242	243	244	245	247	249	250	254		
254	258	259	263	264	270	271	275	278	279	291	G	297	302	304	306	309	312	314	315	320		
321	338	342	356	362	378	384	395	408	414	448	H	465	486	495	499	505	516	524	527	542		

DATE OF INST Mon.	Day	Year	NAMES SURNAME	GIVEN NAME	To or From	NAMES	KIND OF INSTRUMENT	WHERE RECORDED Book	No.	Page
Feb.	5	1906	Esham	William F. et ux	To	Etta Esham	Deed	F.H.P.	24	364
May	3	"	Evans	Willard P.	From	James S. Price et al	"	"	25	41
"	"	"	Evans	Willard P.	To	Charles W. Shockley	Mort.	"	"	42
Jan.	2	1903	Elliott	William F. et al	"	Thos. H. W. White	Deed	"	"	170
"	31	1907	Evans	Williard P. et al	From	Elizabeth A. Gibney et al	"	"	27	21
Apr.	30	"	Ennis	William J.	"	Mary E. Davis et al	"	"	"	415D
May	14	"	Ennis	William J. et ux	To	Francis Raymond Shingle	Mort.	"	"	417
June	6	"	Evans	Willard P. et al	"	Matthew Purnell	Deed	"	"	496
"	28	"	Ensminger	Wein A.	From	Daniel W. Erb	B. of S.	"	28	22
Nov.	27	"	Elliott	William	"	John Elliott	Deed	"	"	438
Oct.	2	1908	Esham	William	"	John G. Townsend et ux.	"	O.D.J.3	3	184
Jan.	1	1909	Esham	William F. et ux	To	John S. Nelson	Mtg.	"	"	185
"	30	"	Evans	William S.	From	John S. Aydelotte Exor.	Deed	"	"	340
July	17	"	Elliott	William F.	"	George W. Jones et al	"	"	4	421
Nov.	18	1910	Evans	William S.	"	Annie M. Agnew et vir	"	"	7	271
Feb.	15	1911	Evans	William H.	To	Eva Evans	B. of S.	"	8	526
Mar.	27	1909	Ennis	William J. et ux	"	George H. Nestor	Deed	"	9	9
June	30	1911	Esham	William F. et ux	"	William J. Hall	"	"	"	435

Cott Key Index, Right Page with Key Table. Worcester County.

FIRST SEARCH FREQUENTLY OCCURRING NAMES BELOW

Because of their frequent entry, all common and other active surnames or family names and the page on which they are separately grouped should be entered in proper ruled block below according to large alphabet division.

COTTCO UNIVERSAL INDEX No. 6-34 (U.S. Pat. No. 1497168—U.S. Copyright No. 123589—1923) The Cott Index Company, Columbus, Ohio

Column 4	PAGE	Column 3	PAGE	Column 2	PAGE	Enter Names First in Column 1	PAGE
		Waybright	129	Ward	37	Wachtel	77
				Warfield	115	Wachter-Wacter	133
				[illegible]rner	107	Waesche	59
				[illegible]rrenfeltz	75	Wagaman-Wagerman	97
				[illegible]rthen	93	Wagner	65
				Waskey	65	Walker	69
				[illegible]tler	53	Wallace	109
				[illegible]terman	5	Walter-Walters	123
				[illegible]	73	Waltz	67
				[illegible]	115	[illegible]	113
		[illegible]rtenbaker	49			Weaden	47
				[illegible]ner	87	Weant	73
		[illegible]rt[illegible]ner	1[illegible]5			Weaver	10[illegible]
				[illegible]eller	99	Webb	59
		[illegible]st	[illegible]1			Wetber-Weber	13[illegible]
				[illegible]elty	83	[illegible]ester	[illegible]
		[illegible]	[illegible]			[illegible]le	[illegible]
				[illegible]ner	79	[illegible]-[illegible]	47
		[illegible]ybright	[illegible]			[illegible]	67
				[illegible]ritz	117	[illegible]ers	77

KEY TABLE FOR MIXED NAMES

TO WHICH REFER IF NAME IS NOT FOUND IN RULED SPACES TO LEFT

Alphabet Div.	First Letters of Surname	Page
Wa	Waa-Wab-Wac-Wad	1
	Wae-Waf-Wag-Wah	1
	Wai-Waj-Wak	1
	Wal	3
	Wam-Wan	5
	Wao-Wap-Waq	5
	War	7
	Was-Wat	9
	Wau-Wav-Waw	11
	Wax-Way-Waz	11
Wb Wc Wd	Wb-Wc-Wd	11
We	Wea-Web-Wec	13
	Wed-Wee	13
	Wef-Weg-Weh	15
	Wei-Wej	15
	Wek-Wel	17
	Wem-Wen-Weo	19
	Wep-Weq-Wer	19
	Wes-Wet-Weu-Wev	21
	Wew-Wex-Wey-Wez	21
Wf Wg	Wf-Wg	21

Cottco Universal Index, Guide Sheet. Frederick County.

GENERAL INDEX TO DEEDS — Frederick County, Maryland

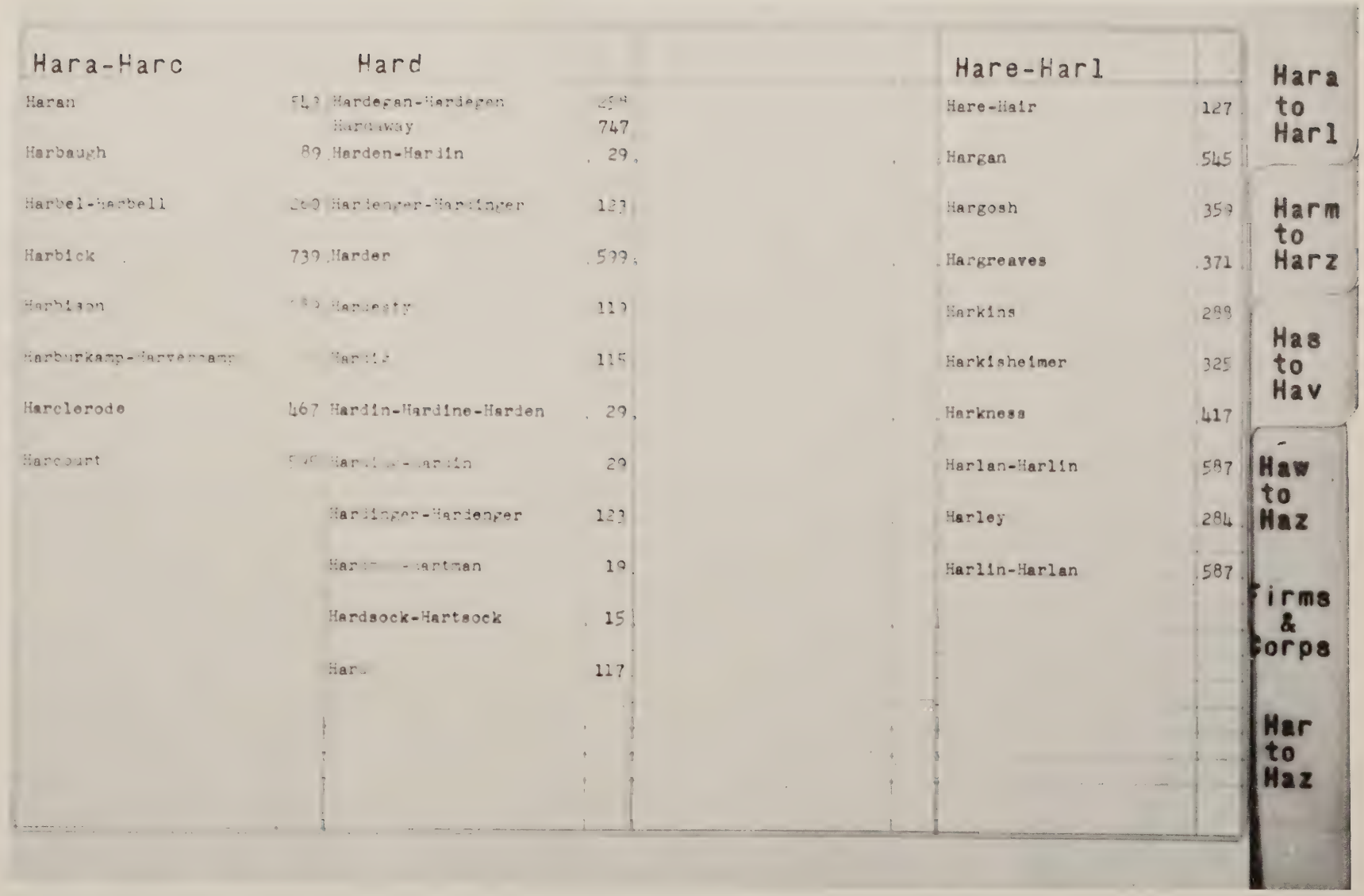
COTTCO UNIVERSAL INDEX No. 8-24
U. S. Patent No. 1437185—Copyright 1950

To locate names, open at SURNAME INITIAL TAB and refer to Buff Sub-Index sheet for page reference

THE COTT INDEX COMPANY Columbus Ohio
Mfrs. Cott Patent Index Systems.

LAND RECORD No	LAND RECORD Page	DATE RECORDED Month	Day	Year	NAMES SURNAME	GIVEN NAMES ABCDEFGH	GIVEN NAMES IJKLMNO	GIVEN NAMES PQRSTUVWXYZ	TO or FROM	NAMES	Kind of Inst. other than Deed
316	93	Feb	3	1916	Warrenfeltz	Edgar C Esta M		Zoa A	from	Albert W Moser al	
316	347	Apr	1	1916	do	Annie B Gail M		Ross H	to	John H Stull al	
316	347	Apr	1	1916	do	Foster M			to	John H Stull al	
316	497	Apr	25	1916	do	Addison P			from	Geo H Dennis Jr Tr al	
316	497	Apr	25	1916	do By Trs		Marshall H		to	Addison P Warrenfeltz	
316	506	Apr	26	1916	do	Annie B Chas F S			to	Chas C Humerick	
316	518	Apr	28	1916	do	Henry M Clara A	Jennie C		to	Ira V Harshman al	
316	581	May	15	1916	do	Adam K		Sadie E	to	Geo A Marken	
318	22	May	27	1916	do			Wade W	to	C & P Tel Co	R of W
318	23	May	27	1916	do		John W Margaret M		to	C & P Tel Co	R of W
320	307	Mar	30	1917	do	Gail M Foster M			from	Geo A Stockman al	
320	388	Mar	31	1917	do	Esta M		Ross H	to	Geo W Rhoderick al	
320	391	Mar	31	1917	do	Esta M		Ross H	from	Wm V Stull al	
320	437	Apr	3	1917	do	Esta M		Ross H	to	C & P Tel Co	R of W
322	323	Aug	21	1917	do	Amy S Gail M	Ira T		from	David A Blickenstaff al	
322	577	Nov	30	1917	do	Foster M			to	John T Wiles al	

Cottco Universal Index, Entry Sheet. Frederick County.



Hara-Harc

Haran 543
Harbaugh 89
Harbel-Harbell 260
Harbick 739
Harbison [illegible]
Harburkamp-Harrenkamp [illegible]
Harclerode 467
Harcourt [illegible]

Hard

Hardegan-Hardegen 298
Hardaway 747
Harden-Hardin 29
Hardenger-Hardinger 123
Harder 599
Hardesty 119
Hardie 115
Hardin-Hardine-Harden 29
Harding-Hardin 29
Hardinger-Hardenger 123
Hardman-Hartman 19
Hardsock-Hartsock 15
Hare 117

Hare-Harl

Hare-Hair 127
Hargan 545
Hargosh 359
Hargreaves 371
Harkins 288
Harkisheimer 325
Harkness 417
Harlan-Harlin 587
Harley 284
Harlin-Harlan 587

Hara to Harl
Harm to Harz
Has to Hav
Haw to Haz
Firms & Corps
Har to Haz

Cott Family Name Index, Guide Sheet. Allegany County.

General Index to Deeds, Etc., Allegany County, Md.

Refer to SUB-INDEX in front Portion of Book for Alphabetical Arrangement and Page Reference to Names in this Index

(a)

NAME: Family Names	NAME: Given Names A B C D E F G H	NAME: Given Names I J K L M N O	NAME: Given Names P Q R S T U V W Y Z	To or From	NAME	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Year of Record
Harbaugh	Ann			To	Thurman Frazee	Deed	20	133	1862
do			Simon P	From	George H Rizer et ux	Deed	34	669	1872
do	Ellen			From	Simon P Harbaugh	Deed	53	495	1880
do			Simon P	To	Ellen Harbaugh	Deed	53	495	1880
do	Ellen			From	Matilda E Holliday	Deed	61	519	1885
do	Ellen			From	John H Holzshu et ux	Deed	68	129	1890
do	Ellen			From	Amos Davis et ux by Atty	Deed	69	570	1891
do	Ellen			To	F Henry Charles	Deed	71	56	1891
do	Ellen			To	Redmund Tully	Deed	71	424	1892
do	Ellen			To	Robert Reynolds	Deed	72	1	1892
do	Ellen			From	Mary J Schafer et al	Deed	73	404	1893
do	Ellen			From	Deborah Kean Est by Trus	Deed	74	336	1893
do	Ellen			To	George A Kean	Deed	74	353	1893
do	Ellen			From	Henry J Glick et al	Deed	75	269	1894
do	Ellen			From	Benjamin F Swann et ux	Deed	80	448	1897
do	Ellen			From	Virginia C Mitchell et al	Deed	83	34	1898

Cott Family Name Index, Entry Sheet. Allegany County.

INSTRUCTIONS TO KEY

TO FIND DESIRED NAME. TAKE TWO LETTERS IN FIRST PERPENDICULAR COLUMN AND THIRD LETTER APPEARING ON HORIZONTAL LINE.

		A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
W	A			5	7			9	21	25		29	33	71	75				81	115	121	141			135	137	
W	B																										
W	C																										
W	D																										
W	E	143																									
W	F																										
W	G																										
W	H																										
W	I																										
W	J																										
W	K																										
W	L																										

Paul Company Key Index, Key Table. Harford County.

W A L			INSTRUMENT			DISTRICT	Liber	No.	Folio
Walstrum,	James E.,	To Margaret P. Ross,	Deed	1923		2	DGW	186	2
Walker,	Catherine,	To John H. Walker et al,	Deed	1923		5	DGW	186	106
Walker,	John H.,	From Catherine Walker,	Deed	1923		5	DGW	186	106
Walker,	Emma,	From Catherine Walker,	Deed	1923		5	DGW	186	106
Wallace,	J. Andrew,	From Frank T. Glenn et al,	Deed	1924		5	DGW	186	196
Wallace,	Jeanette E.,	From Frank T. Glenn et al,	Deed	1924		5	DGW	186	196
Walker,	Charles W.,	From Charles A. Scott,	Mort	1924	Rel.	1	DGW	187	239
Walsh,	James,	From Belcamp Beach Corp.,	Mort	1924			DGW	188	175
Walsh,	James,	To Belcamp Beach Corp.,	Par Rel'se	1924			DGW	188	347
Walsh,	James,	To Belcamp Beach Corp.,	Par Rel'se	1924			DGW	188	383
Walker,	Wilbur W.,	To Havre de G. Banking & T. Co.,	Mort	1924	Rel.		DGW	188	392
Walker,	Elsie F.,	To Havre de G. Banking & T. Co.,	Mort	1924	Rel.		DGW	188	392
Walker,	Catharine,	To William Cochran,	Mort	1924	REL.	3	DGW	188	490
Walton,	George,	From Charles C. Vaughn et al,	Deed	1924		1	DGW	189	43
Walker,	LeRoy B.,	To U. S. of America,	Deed	1924			DGW	189	63
Walker,	Gabriella A.,	To U. S. of America,	Deed	1924			DGW	189	63
Walton,	George,	From Charles C. Vaughn et al,	Deed	1924		1	DGW	189	89
Walsh,	James,	To Belcamp Beach Corp.,	Deed	1924			DGW	189	112

1740432

Paul Company Key Index, Entry Sheet. Harford County.

Ca

DATE	NAME OF DECEASED		Instrument	Liber	No.	Folio
7/10/23	Carroll	Katie E	Wills	R.P.S.	3	30
9/22/23	Cantwell	James F	"	" " "	3	51
[illegible]	Cary	Travis Calvin	"	" " "	3	135
[illegible]	Cahman	Sevin H	"	" " "	3	143
[illegible]	Chandler	Charles E	"	" " "	3	276
12/18/28	Carroll	Annie R	"	" " "	3	326
6/[illegible]	Carr	Louis W	"	" " "	3	378
5/13/35	Carr	Effie M.	"	" " "	4	366
[illegible]	Calor	Thomas B	"	" " "	3	425
1/4/39	Craig	N Gracion	"	" " "	4	87
1/23/33	Carroll	Charles C.	"	" " "	4	103
[illegible]	Cranford	Frederick	"	" " "	4	190
4/3/36	Crane	Levin E.	"	" " "	4	299
11/8/37	Cantwell	Lucius	"	" " "	4	382

A E I O U Y

Vowel Index. Dorchester County.

III. DESCRIPTION OF RECORDS

The procedures employed in listing the records have been kept as simple as possible.

TITLE

Each record series is listed in a single paragraph, beginning with the title. If there are variations in the title, the one that best describes the record is used, with other titles being shown in parenthesis. Minor variations are not indicated. All titles appear in capital letters. Thus, a sample entry might be "COURT PROCEEDINGS (JUDGMENTS)." Occasionally, a word or two has been inserted to clarify the nature of the record listed. Such words (as well as any other matter inserted by the editors) are enclosed in brackets and normal capitalization is used, *e.g.* "DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization]."

DATE

The dates covered by the record appear immediately after the title, for example, "LAND COMMISSIONS, 1723-1801, 1810-34, 1836-43," or "EQUITY RECORDS, 1852--." The use of the double dash indicates the record is current.

Cross references to other series where the record may be found are also given as in the following example: "ACCOUNTS, 1709--. 1673-1709 in Wills." If material other than that designated by the title of an entry is included in the record, this too is indicated. Thus, the reverse of the example cited above would be "WILLS, 1673--. Also contains Accounts, 1673-1709."

DESCRIPTION

Next is a description of the record. This will not be necessary for the items described in the section entitled, "Basic County Records," unless there is some variation or unusual feature that requires mention. Records not included in this section will be described as they occur.

INDEXING

Often some or all of the volumes of a record series will have self-contained indexes. This means that in a special section of each volume, usually front or back but sometimes in a separate booklet, a page or more has been set aside for each letter of the alphabet and the index references entered accordingly, quite often on a current basis. Thus, such references are alphabetical by the initial letter of the name indexed only.

The entry for a record series indexed in this manner will include a statement to that effect, such as, "Each volume indexed" or "Most volumes indexed." In most cases, the index references are self-evident, for example, Wills are indexed by the name of the decedent, Land Records by name of grantor and grantee, and so forth. Where there is a possibility of confusion, further explanation is given, as in the case of the Stet Dockets of Frederick County which are "Indexed by name of defendant" only.

Certain records are described as being "Arranged alphabetically," which means that a certain number of pages in the volume are reserved for each letter of the alphabet and entries are made under the appropriate letter.

General indexes are listed separately, appearing immediately after the record or records to which they apply, so it has not been deemed necessary to refer to them in the record entry.

LOCATION

Finally, each entry will show the location of the records included in the series and any microfilm copies that may exist. For the sake of convenience, the following abbreviations are used: C. H. for Courthouse, which means the record is still in custody of the creating agency, L. O. for Land Office and H. R. for Hall of Records. Thus the simple notation "C. H." means the entire record is at the Courthouse. If part of the record is at the Courthouse while the earlier volumes have been transferred to the Hall of Records, this may be shown in the following manner: "C. H. 1851--. H. R. 1774-1850."

No attempt is made to differentiate between the original record and paper copies whether handwritten, typewritten or photostat, but the dates of microfilm copies are listed separately. Thus an entry such as the following "C. H. 1707-88, 1818--; 1788-1818, microfilm. L. O. 1949--, microfilm. H. R. 1707-1818; 1707-1949, microfilm." shows that the creating agency has paper copies for 1707-88 and 1818 to date and microfilm copies for 1788-1818; the Land Office has microfilm copies from 1949 to date; and the Hall of Records has paper copies for 1707-1818 and microfilm copies for 1707-1949.

ALLEGANY COUNTY

Records

Allegany County has preserved almost the entire body of its archives. This is especially remarkable because the county has had three courthouses, and the records have been kept elsewhere during fairly extended periods—before the first courthouse was built and while the later ones were building.

The fire of January 5, 1893 spared the vaults of both the Clerk of the Court and the Register of Wills. Such losses as occurred were apparently of records kept in the outer offices. An inventory made shortly after the fire listed the following as missing: Marriage Records, 1791-1847; List of Attorneys, 1791-1886; unrecorded Naturalization Papers, September 1, 1892-January 4, 1893; part of the Minutes of the Circuit Court for 1892; some original deeds recorded in Land Records, Volume 72, and some original mortgages recorded in Volume 10 of Mortgage Records.[1]

These burned records were reconstituted with the exception of the Minutes, the Naturalization Papers and the List of Attorneys. The Marriage Records are, however, not precisely records: they were taken from copies of the original books which had been printed in the local newspapers some years before the fire. County officers in 1893 thought of records as volumes and papers found in the custody of the Clerks of the Court and the Registers of Wills. None of the other records were protected, but many were saved. No doubt the obvious losses in the administrative branch of government were also casualties of the fire.

Of losses prior to the fire there is little evidence; however we know that Scharf, writing in the 1870's, noted that the Minutes of the Proceedings of Court, 1791-1798, were not in the Clerk's office at that time.[2] They are still missing.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1791--. Beginning in 1883, mortgages were recorded separately. Most volumes indexed. C.H., 1791--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1791-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1791--. Cott Family. Includes mortgages until 1883. C.H., 1791--. H.R., 1791-1963, microfilm.

INDEX TO MORTGAGES IN DEED BOOKS, 1791-1883. Cott Key. C.H.

INDEX TO MISCELLANEOUS INSTRUMENTS RECORDED IN DEED BOOKS PRIOR TO SEPTEMBER 1905, 1791-1905. Cott Key. Covers chattel mortgages, bills of sale, contracts, leases, assignments, commission and bonds in Land Records. C.H.

MORTGAGE RECORDS (CHATTEL AND MORTGAGE RECORDS), 1883--. Also includes Chattel Records, 1883-1953. C.H., 1883--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

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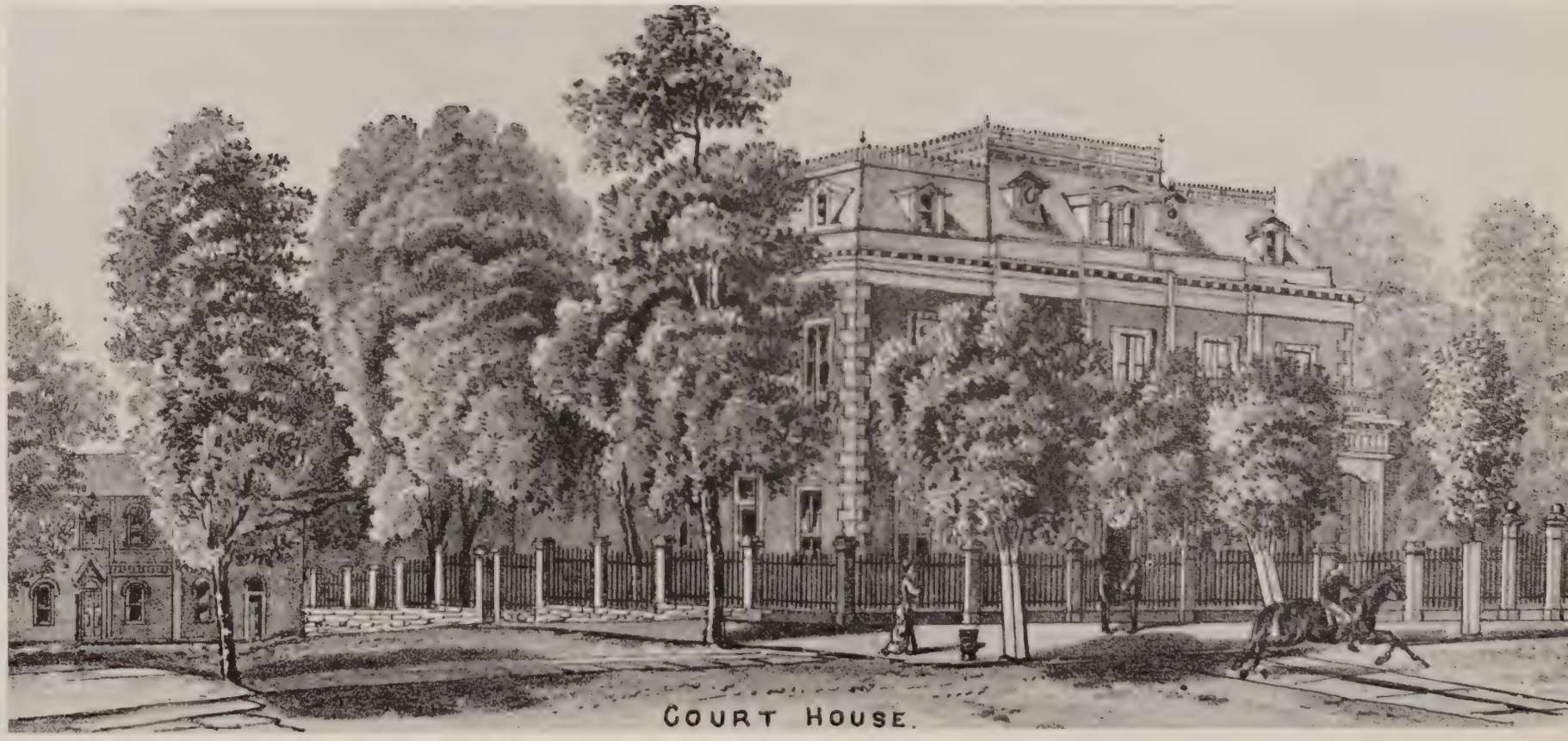
[1] *Inventory of the County Archives of Maryland, No. 1, Allegany County,* Baltimore, The Historical Records Survey, 1937, p. 16. The present writer was editor of the HRS volume cited above, but he cannot remember where he found this list. The library of printed books was a total loss; the State Librarian was ordered to furnish new sets of *Maryland Reports, Acts of Assembly, etc.* (Joint Resolution No. 10, Acts of 1894).

[2] J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Western Maryland,* Vol. II, p. 1,349, fn. 3.



Allegany County Courthouse of 1841.

INDEX TO MORTGAGES, 1883--. Cott Family. C.H.

PLATS, 1791--. C.H.

INDEX TO PLATS, 1791--. C.H.

PLAT RECORD STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

STATE ROADS PLAT INDEX, 1932--. C.H.

STATE ROADS COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITION DOCKET, 1956--.

MINUTES OF COURT, 1822, 1885-93, 1901-03, 1905-16, 1918--. Also contains Naturalizations, 1822. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1791--. Also contains Naturalizations, 1791-97. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1791--. Campbell, 1791-1899; Cott Family, 1900-53; straight alphabetical, 1954--. C.H.

COURT DOCKETS, 1798--. Also contains Naturalizations, 1798-1821, 1823-44. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO CRIMINAL CASES, COURT DOCKET, 1798--. Cott Key. C.H.

STET DOCKETS, 1891--. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1816--. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY DOCKET, 1816--. Cott. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1905--. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1881-99. C.H.

INSOLVENTS DOCKET, 1859-99. C.H.

NATURALIZATION DOCKET, 1845--. C.H.

INDEX TO NATURALIZATION DOCKET, 1845--. C.H.

RECORD OF NATURALIZATIONS, 1845-1906. 1791-97 in Judgment Records; 1798-1821, 1823-44 in Court Dockets; 1822 in Minutes of Court. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1903--. C.H.

PETITIONS FOR NATURALIZATION, 1906--. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF INCORPORATION, 1886--. Earlier records of incorporation in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1791-1865. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-1900. C.H.

INDEX TO RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1886-1900. Campbell, 1886-95. Cottco Universal, 1895-1900. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1900--. Combined Cottco Universal index and record. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1887--. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREE RECORD, 1909--. Earlier record in Judgment Records. Each volume indexed, 1909-52. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-84. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

DECLARATION RECORDS, 1902--. Register of persons who have declared their intention to become citizens. Indexed. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS OF TEMPORARY ABSENCE, 1910-48. C.H.

COMMISSIONS OF CIVIL OFFICERS, 1883--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOKS, 1886--. Earlier record in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1883--. Earlier record in Land Records. Record of bonds executed by county officials. Indexed. C.H.

SURVEYORS RECORDS, 1803-1919. Record of surveys and plats made by county surveyor on authority obtained by special warrants of resurvey, common warrants and special warrants of escheat. Indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1792--. Include Law Papers, 1792--; Equity Papers, 1800--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1791--. Each volume indexed, 1791-1920. C.H. 1791-1954, microfilm; 1955--. H.R. 1791-1954.

INDEX TO ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1791--. Campbell. C.H.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1843-92. C.H.

ADMINISTRATORS DOCKET, 1882--. See also Executors Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EXECUTORS DOCKET, 1890--. See also Administrators Dockets. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1790--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1790-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1790--. Campbell. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1790-1953, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1790--. Each volume indexed after 1841. C.H. 1790-1899, microfilm; 1900--. H.R. 1790-1899.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1869--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1897--. H.R. 1869-1896.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY, 1869--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1898--. H.R. 1869-97.

INVENTORIES, 1791--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1791-1899, microfilm; 1900--. H.R. 1791-1899.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES, DEBTS AND SALES, 1791--. Campbell. C.H. 1791-1899, microfilm; 1900--. H.R. 1791-1899.

ACCOUNT OF SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1818-1900. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPRAISERS WARRANTS, 1887--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1901--. H.R. 1887-1900.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1792--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1792--. H.R. 1792-1850, microfilm.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1792--. Campbell. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1792--. Most volumes indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1792--. H.R. 1792-1867, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1797--. Libers A-L indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1797--. H.R. 1797-1848, microfilm.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1797--. Campbell. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1888--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RELEASES, 1858--. Libers A-L indexed by name of releasor. C.H. 1900--. H.R. 1858-1899.

INDEX TO RELEASES, 1858--. Campbell. C.H.

PASSED CLAIMS, 1849--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY RECORDS, 1868-1917. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. H.R.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1868-1902. Indexed by name of complainant. H.R.

INDENTURES, 1796-1921. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

DEATHS, 1790--. Record of deceased persons whose estates were administered in the Orphans' Court. Exact date of death given only since 1915. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL WILLS, 1790--. All original papers of Orphans' Court are filed under this title. C.H.

County Commissioners

MINUTES, 1813--. C.H.

INDEX TO MINUTES, 1813-1900. Campbell. C.H.

MINUTES IN PROCEEDINGS ON COUNTY INSTITUTIONS, 1944--. Record of meetings held by County Commissioners at county institutions. C.H.

LEVY LISTS, 1879--. C.H.

TAX LEVY, 1868--. Printed copies of each annual tax levy, giving summary of taxes and fees to be collected and amounts to be disbursed. C.H.

ASSESSMENTS, 1792-1928. Missing 1833, 1841. Volume for 1792-1803 contains a list of military lots awarded to officers and soldiers of the Maryland Line and a list of lots not awarded. Arranged alphabetically within each district, 1792-1812, 1911-28. C.H.

INDEX TO ASSESSMENTS, 1813-1910. Cott Family. H.R.

JOURNAL, 1872-1908, 1912-16, 1920--. C.H.

LEDGER, 1868-70, 1872-82, 1886-1921, 1923--. C.H.

ROAD SUPERVISOR'S ACCOUNT BOOK, 1872-83. C.H.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF ROAD DIRECTORS, 1904-28. C.H.

LEDGER, 1892-1900, 1924-26. Record of disbursements of Board of Road Directors. C.H.

NATIONAL ROAD, 1903. Copy of field notes of old and new National Road between Cumberland and 6-mile house; also testimony of old residents as to location of road. Prepared for Commissioners by County Surveyor, L. Schaidt. C.H.

OUTSIDE PENSIONS, 1884-1910. C.H.

SURVEY OF COUNTY LINE, ALLEGANY AND GARRETT COUNTIES, 1907. C.H.

ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY

Records

Of all the records of Anne Arundel County preceding the State House fire of October 1704, only the current volume of the court proceedings, Liber G; the current volume of the land records, Liber W. T. No. 2; and the preceding volume, Liber W. T. No. 1, survived the flames. These three volumes may owe their rescue to the fact that they were kept in the courtroom on the ground floor rather than in the loft room in which the clerk normally kept his records. Another possibility is that the clerk had taken them to his home that evening to make current entries. In any case, no scrap of record for the first fifty years of the county has survived, except for one and a half pages of a court session of March 31, 1694/95, copied into the records of St. James' Parish.[1]

The land records listed below through 1778 remained in the custody of the Clerk of the Court until transferred to the Hall of Records January 29, 1937. Later records have followed from time to time, the last, those covering the period from 1789 to 1855, having come in February 1955.

The history of the early court records is more complex. For many years the early volumes were stored in the basement of the courthouse. Then the Daughters of the American Revolution and other interested parties were able to persuade the General Assembly to remove these records to the custody of the Land Office.[2] They were rebound by the Land Office, but in the process two volumes, November Term 1720 to August Term 1722, were overlooked. When the Land Office moved to the new Hall of Records building, these two volumes remained in the basement of the old Court of Appeals Building where the Land Office had been housed since 1906. They were found there and transferred to the custody of the Hall of Records Commission in August 1937 to be restored to their proper place in the series which, in the meanwhile (November 1935) had been transferred from the Land Office. The Minutes of the March Court of 1767 were subsequently found in the basement of the Anne Arundel County courthouse by workers of the Historical Records Survey of the WPA and from there, brought to the Hall of Records on April 18, 1940. Finally, some of the original minutes of the court which had found their way into the John Work Garrett Library of Baltimore, now a part of The Johns Hopkins University, were microfilmed for the Hall of Records in 1941.[3] The later court record series, in which there are many serious gaps, were transferred in 1955.[4]

Note

In the first volume of this study (p. 13) there appears the following: "Before the State House . . . in Annapolis was completed, the General Assembly and the other agencies of the Colonial government met in private homes or inns and the County Court probably did the same, although there are no records extant to prove this." Subsequently Miss Constance

[1] Vestry Minutes, 1695-1793, p. 1, *Ms.* Hall of Records.

[2] Ch. 440, Acts of 1912.

[3] Courtesy of Elizabeth Baer, Librarian, Evergreen House Foundation.

[4] A list of the Colonial Records of Anne Arundel County then known was published in 1927 by the late Louis Dow Scisco (*Md. Hist. Mag.*, Vol. 22, pp. 62-67); this list was used as a basis for the more comprehensive list which appeared in *Inventory of the County and Town Archives of Maryland No. 2, Anne Arundel County*, Md. Historical Records Survey, 1941, Baltimore. This volume also contains a list of Early Annapolis records at the Hall of Records compiled by Morris L. Radoff (*Md. Hist. Mag.*, Vol. 35 [1940], pp. 74-78).

Sworn the Day & Year aforesaid

Jn° Howard

Philip Jones

Catalogue of Record Books belonging to Anne Arundel County and taken in March last 1736/7

Liber WH n° 4 Court 336 pages. Especial Court Land Records

IH n° 1 330 D° D°

IH n° 2 246 D° D°

IH n° 3 137 D° D°

IT n° 5 120 D° D°

WT 329 D° Land Records

WT n° 1 697 D° D° Two Leaves Page 1 to 1 being Loose

PK 527 D° D°

IB n° 2 548 D° D°

CW n° 1 533 D° D°

RCW n° 2 260 D° D°

SU n° 1 445 D° D°

RD 252 D° D°

IT n° 1 347 D° D°

IH n° 1 536 D° D°

RD n° 2 —

Courts Proceedings —

Liber G Court 713 Pages

TB Court 814 D°

TB n° 2 519 D°

B

VD n° 1 545 D°

RC one being Loose

RC n° 1

NH n° 1

RC n° 2

RC n° 3

RC n° 4

IB n° 3

A

IB n° 1

IB n° 4

IB n° 2

Catalogue of Record Books, Anne Arundel County, 1736/37.

Werner then of Historic Annapolis, Inc. discovered that on October 3, 1697 Richard Hill acknowledged that the County had released to him his house in Annapolis called the old Court house. (Provincial Court Deeds, W.R.C. No. 1, f. 815, *Ms.* Land Office). This house appears to have been one of Richard Hill's standing on Lot no. 79 "wherein the records and provincial Court are now kept." The lease of this house is dated March 5, 1695 (*Ibid.* f. 740). According to the report of a legislative committee of March 23, 1697/8, "The records of Anne Arundel County Court are Lodged in the Stadt house att Annapolis and the County Courts are kept in that house" (Md. Archives, XXII, p. 102-103).

This discovery makes it possible to establish the following chronology for the period between the abandonment of the county seat at Londontown and the taking up of quarters in the State House. The lease between Richard Hill and the State would indicate that the Court moved into his house around March 5, 1695 and that it remained there until around October 3, 1697. Surely the court must have moved into the State House at this time, and if this is true we have a more precise date for its completion than any we have had heretofore (see Morris L. Radoff, *Buildings of the State of Maryland at Annapolis,* Annapolis, 1954, pp. 7-9).

Only one significant *lacuna* still remains in the history of Anne Arundel Courthouses: where was court held in Annapolis between the founding of the County in 1650 and the move to the Ridge *circa* 1679?

Anne Arundel County Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1653--. Beginning in 1922, mortgages are recorded in separate volumes, but numbered as part of Land Records series. Original volumes predating 1699 were destroyed in the State House fire of 1704. A special commission was established to re-record conveyances brought before it for such purpose. The five volumes thus created represent only a partial restoration of the original records. Liber N. H. No. 1, 1778-1784, has special section in rear devoted to Land Commissions, 1716-18. Most volumes are indexed. C.H. 1855--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1653-1855; 1653-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1653-1935. Liber index. C.H. 1653-1839, 1896-1935. L.O. 1653-1839, microfilm. H.R. 1653-1895; 1653-1851, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1839--. Cottco Universal. C.H. 1839--. L.O. 1839-1939, microfilm. H.R. 1839-1939, microfilm.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1724-94. 1716-18 in Land Records. Each volume indexed by name of petitioner. H.R.

[COMMISSIONS TO DIVIDE ESTATES] (LAND COMMISSIONS, GUARDIANS FOR INFANTS), 1791-1805, 1811-29. H.R. has card index, 1791-1805. H.R.

DOCKET OF TAX SALES, 1889--. Each volume indexed by name of delinquent taxpayer. C.H.

TAX SALES RECORD, 1871-76, 1889--. Record of proceedings in sales of property of delinquent taxpayers. Some volumes indexed by name of taxpayer. C.H.

RECORD BOOK SHERIFF'S LAND SALES, 1867--. Full record of proceedings in the sale of land and other property under lien by the sheriff. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INQUISITION JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1886--. Record of proceedings in land condemnation cases. Indexed by names of plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

PLATS, c.1900--. Earlier plats in Land Records. C.H.

INDEX TO PLATS, c.1900--. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1933--. C.H.

PLATS AND CERTIFICATES OF SURVEY, 1789-1901. Filed as exhibits in court cases. Typewritten list available. H.R.

MINUTES (ROUGH MINUTES), 1725, 1733, 1748, 1752, 1754-55, 1762, 1766-67, 1774-75, 1834-37, 1839-41, 1844-45, 1854-55, 1867. See also Court Proceedings and Judgments. H.R. 1725-55, 1766, 1774-75, microfilm copied from original records in the Evergreen House Foundation; 1762, 1767, 1834-1867, original.

COURT PROCEEDINGS (JUDGMENTS), 1703-23, 1734-74, 1783-89, 1791-92, 1807, 1810-1845, 1851-64, 1871-75, 1886--. Volumes predating 1703 were destroyed in the State House fire of 1704. A few volumes indexed. H.R. has card index to Liber for 1703-05 and for Liber mistitled, "Ejectments", 1807. C.H. 1904--. H.R. 1703-1903.

DOCKETS, 1775-78, 1803, 1809--. Most volumes indexed by name of defendant. C.H. 1911--. H.R. 1775-1910.

JUDGMENT INDEX (CURRENT JUDGMENT INDEX), 1842-1936. Indexed by name of defendant within court term. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS AND MECHANICS LIENS, 1924--. Cottco Universal. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1934--. Record prior to 1934 is in Dockets. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO CRIMINAL CASES, 1894--. Brief record of criminal cases. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

REFERENCE DOCKET, 1898-1904. Brief record of cases referred to arbitrators by order of court or by agreement of counsel. Indexed by name of defendant. H.R.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET PETITIONS, ETC., 1890--. Record of proceedings in miscellaneous court cases, including registration of appeals, habeas corpus, mandamus and lunacy cases, commitments of habitual drunkards and insane paupers, adoptions, elections and remonstrances. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SUPERSEDEAS, 1813-15, 1820-21. H.R.

EQUITY RECORD, 1852--. The presence of the State Court of Chancery, which was conveniently located in Annapolis, meant that few, if any, equity cases were brought into the Circuit Court of Anne Arundel County until after the State Court was abolished in 1851. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1852--, microfilm.

CHANCERY RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. 1852-1908 in Equity Record. Each volume indexed by name of husband and wife. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1852--. Each volume indexed, 1874--. C.H.

DIVORCE DOCKET (EQUITY DOCKET DIVORCES), 1913--. 1852-1912 in Equity Docket. Each volume indexed by name of husband and wife. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKETS, 1852--. Cottco Universal. Indexed by names of plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET OF CASES RECEIVED FROM HIGH COURT OF CHANCERY, 1854-1866. Record of proceedings in equity cases removed to Anne Arundel County Court for completion after the High Court of Chancery was abolished in 1851. Indexed. C.H.

TRUSTEES BONDS, 1891--. Record of bonds entered into by trustees in equity cases. Each volume indexed by name of trustee. C.H.

TRUST DOCKET, 1936--. Brief record of equity cases in which trustees have been appointed. Indexed by name of estate. C.H.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS, 1788-1804. Petitions of debtors for relief under the insolvency laws of the State. H.R. has card index. H.R.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1881-96. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1881-1933. Indexed by name of insolvent. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATION, 1899-1903. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1904--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MILITARY PETITIONS, 1918--. Record of naturalization proceedings of alien soldiers quartered at Camp Meade. C.H.

RECORD OF INCORPORATIONS, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF INCORPORATION OF CHURCHES, 1888-90. For earlier and later church incorporations see Land Records and Record of Incorporations. Indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1777-1886. H.R. has card index to name of male and female. H.R. original and microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. H.R.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. Each volume indexed by name of male and female. C.H. 1904--. H.R. 1886-1904.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-1877. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-1880. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF ELECTION RETURNS, 1897--. C.H.

COMMISSIONS (JUSTICES APPOINTMENTS), 1837--. Record of commissions issued to county officials and to certain State officials residing in county. C.H. 1884--. H.R. 1837-1883.

TEST BOOKS, 1851--. Earlier record in Land Records. C.H. 1869--. H.R. 1851-68.

BONDS OF OFFICERS, 1841--. Record of bonds executed by county officials in qualifying for office. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1872--. H.R. 1841-1871.

QUALIFICATION OF MAGISTRATES, 1815-1844. Record of certifications by justices of the peace that newly-appointed justices of the peace have taken the several oaths required by law to qualify them for office. H.R.

MANUMISSIONS (DEEDS), 1797-1866. Earlier record in Land Records. Liber A. No. 1 also contains Certificates of Freedom, 1806-07. Volumes for 1807-16, 1844-66 indexed by name of owner. H.R. has card index. H.R.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1810-64. 1806-07 in Manumissions. H.R. has card index. H.R.

SLAVE STATISTICS, 1867. Entries are alphabetical by name of owner within each district. H.R. has card index. H.R.

RECORD OF CONVICTS, 1771-1775. Transcripts of the records of convicted felons imported into Maryland as servants recorded under the provisions of Chapter 22, Acts 1769. Index covers only 15 of 89 pages. H.R. has card index. H.R.

REUBEN MERIWEATHER'S BOOK CONTAINING THE OATH OF FIDELITY AND SUPPORT TO THE STATE OF MARYLAND, 1778. Signatures of free male persons above eighteen years of age who subscribed to the Oath of Fidelity before Reuben Meriweather, Justice of the Peace, under the requirements of Chapter 20, Acts of October 1777. H.R. has card index. H.R.

CORONER'S INQUESTS, 1787-1790. Record of inquisitions held by Burton Whetcroft, Coroner. H.R.

BILLS OF SALE [CHATTEL RECORDS], 1829--. Earlier record in Land Records. Record of instruments pertaining to personal property including bills of sale, chattel mortgages, releases and agreements. Also includes federal crop liens since 1933. C.H. 1863--. H.R. 1829-1862.

INDEX TO CHATTEL MORTGAGES, BILLS OF SALE, CROP LIENS (INDEX TO PERSONAL PROPERTY), 1829--. Liber index, 1829-1937. Cott Universal, 1937--. C.H. 1829--. H.R. 1829-67.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1815--. Include Law Papers, 1815--; Equity Papers, 1852--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1777-79, 1788--. 1782-84 in Orders and Petitions. C.H. 1849--. H.R. 1777-1849; 1777-1961, microfilm.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1791-1820, 1825--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1846--. H.R. 1791-1845.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1787--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1820--. H.R. 1787-1820.

WILLS, 1777--. Card index at H.R. 1777-1820. C.H. 1847--. H.R. 1777-1847; 1777-1961, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1777--. Liber index, 1777-1960. Cottco Universal, 1926--. C.H. 1777--. H.R. 1777-1960, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1777-1948. Liber index. Letters A-M, 1777-1948; N-Z, 1820-1948. H.R.

TEST BOOK, 1884--. Record of oaths taken by executors, administrators, guardians and trustees. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES TO FREE NEGROES, 1805-1864. 1807-1820 in Orders and Petitions. H.R.

INDENTURES, 1796-1919. 1817, 1820-21 in Orders and Petitions. Liber for 1796-1818 also includes Receipts and Releases, 1796-1826. Indexed by name of apprentice. H.R.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1866, 1885. C.H.

LAND RECORDS [EQUITY RECORDS], 1866--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1866--. H.R. 1866-1938, microfilm.

VOUCHER DOCKET [CLAIM DOCKET], 1860--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1826--. 1796-1826 in Indentures. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1842--. H.R. 1826-42.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1791-1893. Liber index. Indexed by name of ward. H.R. Original and microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1791--. Most volumes indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1791-1840; 1791-1853, microfilm.

GUARDIAN DOCKET (LIST OF GUARDIANS), 1791-1890. 1891-- in Guardian Bonds. Some volumes indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1820--. 1780-1820 in Administration Bonds. Also includes Guardian Docket, 1891--. Each volume indexed by ward. C.H. 1842--. H.R. 1820-1841; 1820-1856, microfilm.

DISTRIBUTIONS, 1788-98, 1803-87. 1888-- in Accounts. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1839-87. H.R. 1788-1838.

INDEX TO ACCOUNTS, 1797-1893. Liber index. H.R. Original and microfilm.

ACCOUNTS (ACCOUNTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS), 1777--. Also includes Distributions, 1777-79, 1888--. Most volumes indexed. Card index at H.R. 1777-1821. C.H. 1850--. H.R. 1777-1849; 1777-1961, microfilm.

ORDERS AND PETITIONS (RELEASES AND PETITIONS), 1809--. Liber for 1809-13 also includes Orphans Court Proceedings, 1782-84, 1805-07; Certificates of Freedom, 1807-20; Orphans Court Cases, 1794, 1817; Orders of Sales, 1853-55. Libers for 1814-40 also include Indentures, 1817, 1820-21. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1841--. H.R. 1809-40.

ORDERS OF SALES, 1821-82, 1890--. 1853-55 in Orders and Petitions. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1829--. H.R. 1821-28.

ACCOUNTS OF SALES, 1888--. 1777-1888 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORY OF DEBTS, 1890--. 1777-1889 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES (INDEX TO ACCOUNTS OF SALES), 1777-1893. Liber index. H.R. Original and microfilm.

INVENTORIES (LIST OF DEBTS, ACCOUNT OF SALES), 1777--. List of Debts established as separate series in 1890 and Account of Sales in 1888. Most volumes indexed. Card index at H.R. 1777-1821. C.H. 1849--. H.R. 1777-1848; 1777-1962, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS (GUARDIAN BONDS), 1780--. Administration and guardian bonds recorded in same volumes until 1820 when a separate series was established for each record. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1780-1851; 1780-1851, microfilm.

GENERAL INDEX, 1777-1820. Liber index to several series, as follows: Wills, 1777-1820; Administration and Guardian Bonds, 1787-1820; Inventories and Accounts of Sales, 1787-1820; Accounts, 1780-1820. Each series is indexed by name of decedent and the Accounts are also indexed by name of executor or administrator. An abortive index to Guardian Accounts (only letter A was completed) gives names of both minor and guardian. H.R.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1777-1893. Liber index. H.R. original and microfilm.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1777--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1850--. H.R. 1777-1849 with card index for 1777-1820.

Testamentary Papers (includes all other probate papers). C.H. 1849--. H.R. 1778-1848 with card index for 1778-1820.

Invalid's Pay Receipts. Receipts of disabled soldiers and sailors for payments allowed them under Chapter 14, Acts of October 1778. H.R. 1784-87.

Certificates of Discharge. Discharge papers filed in support of claims for Invalid's Pay. H.R. 1777-88.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT, 1820-28. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (MINUTES), 1857-66, 1878-83, 1887-1902, 1904--. C.H. 1878--. H.R. 1857-66.

LEVY BOOKS, 1811-37, 1845-63. H.R.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1876--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

ASSESSMENT [FIELD BOOKS]. 1878-1911. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

TAX LISTS, 1827-31, 1841-49. Also includes Levy Lists, 1826, 1842-45. These records were presented to the Hall of Records by the Reverend Charles N. Baldwin in 1937. H.R.

INSOLVENTS (RECORDS), 1887-97. Record of insolvencies allowed by the County Commissioners. Also contains Appointments, 1887-97. C.H.

TAX SALE RECORDS, 1889--. Record of property of delinquent taxpayers sold at auction. Indexed. C.H.

APPOINTMENT BOOK, 1897-1914. 1887-97 in Insolvents. Record of all appointments made by the County Commissioners. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TAX, 1793-97. H.R. 1793-97, microfilm copied from original record in the Evergreen House Foundation.

RECORD [ROADS], 1912-26. Proceedings of the County Commissioners acting as a road board. C.H.

PUBLIC ROADS, 1898-99. Record of all public roads in the County. C.H.

LIST OF ROADS IN ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY, 1807-08. See Tobacco Inspection Record, 1802-03. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS, 1865-88. H.R.

TOBACCO INSPECTION RECORD, 1802-03. Also contains List of Roads in Anne Arundel County, 1807-08. H.R.

BALTIMORE CITY

Records

When Baltimore City was created a separate governmental entity, all the records of Baltimore County, of which Baltimore City had been the county seat for almost a century, remained in the City courthouse. New record books were used for Baltimore County and these new records were moved to Towson several years later, as soon as there was a proper place to keep them.

Of the records of Baltimore City since its establishment as a separate governmental unit there have been only minor losses in the Judgment records of the Courts, otherwise they are intact.

Note

To what extent men's reason and judgment might be perverted by the bitter contest for a county seat is strikingly illustrated by the manuscript map of Baltimore County produced herewith. In the effort to move the seat of government from Joppa to Baltimore Town in 1768 it was apparently not considered unfair by this supporter of Baltimore to mark that town as "center of the County"!

Superior Court

LAND RECORDS, 1661--. Chronology erratic in early volumes. Baltimore City record begins with Liber E.D. No. 1. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1800--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1661-1833, with numerous other volumes dating to 1920; 1661-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1659-1849. Burr Record Index. C.H. 1659-1849. H.R. 1659-1849, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1851--. Cottco Universal. C.H.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1659-1800. Liber Index. H.R.

BLOCK BOOKS, 1851--. Supplementary record to Land Records, showing conveyances of City property on a block by block basis. Under this system, every transfer of property within a block is entered under the number of the block and reference is given to the liber in which the transfer is recorded. The numbers of the blocks are shown on the Block Book Plats. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1959.

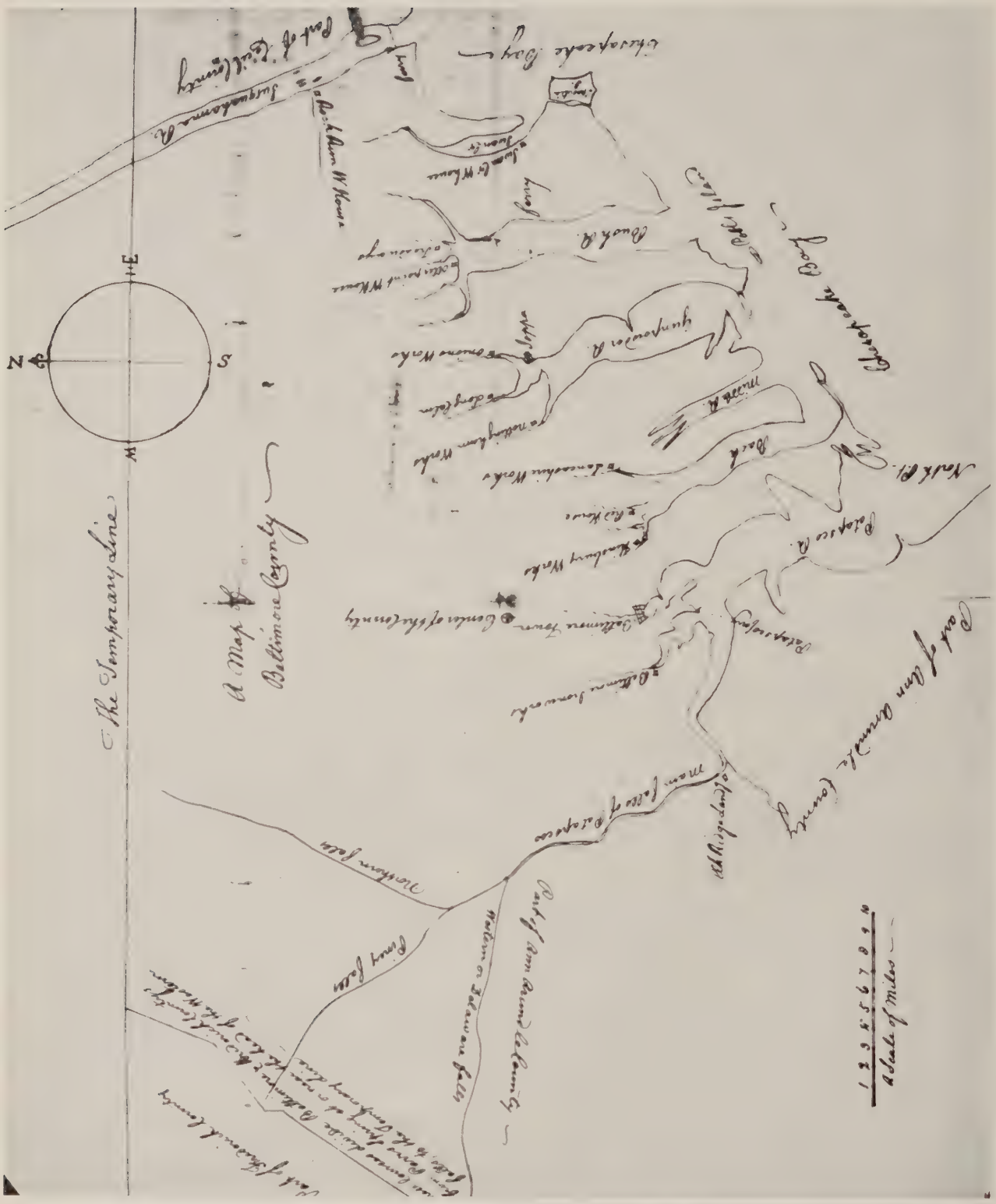
INDEX TO BLOCK BOOKS, 1851--. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1959, microfilm.

INDEX TO ANNEX BLOCKS, 1888-1913. C.H.

INDEX TO NEW ANNEX BLOCKS, 1918--. C.H.

BLOCK BOOK MAPS, 1851--. Plats of Baltimore City blocks showing the numbers used for identification purposes in the Block Books. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851--.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1727-62. Each volume indexed. H.R.



Broadside favoring Baltimore Town over Joppa as Baltimore County Seat, 1768.

COMMISSION DOCKET, 1817-1922. Record of commissions for division of estates, inquisitions to condemn land, division of city into wards, opening of roads, perpetuating boundaries, and ascertaining damages. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PLATS, 1745--. Early plats recorded in Land Records with oversize plats filed separately in bound volumes. Beginning in 1946, plats are stored in pocket folders and filed in metal cabinets. C.H.

INDEX TO PLATS, 1918--. C.H.

CHATTEL RECORDS, 1750-73, 1813-14, 1852--. Volumes for 1750-73 also contain indentures, publications of freight, advertisements of estrays and notices to creditors. All volumes dating prior to 1852 except those above were destroyed by court order. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1750-1814.

COURT MINUTES, 1755-63, 1765, 1768-69, 1772, 1775-97, 1800-17, 1819-20, 1822-49. Minutes of the Baltimore County Court. H.R.

COURT MINUTES, 1851-67, 1874-75, 1880--. A few volumes indexed. C.H.

COURT PROCEEDINGS (JUDGMENTS, COMMON PLEAS), 1682-86, 1691-96, 1715-25, 1728-34, 1736-43, 1746-47, 1750-51, 1754-68, 1771, 1832-51. Includes criminal proceedings until 1757 when a separate series was established for such records. Indexed, 1832-51. H.R.

CRIMINAL PROCEEDINGS (TITLED "COURT PROCEEDINGS"), 1757-59. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER AND GAOL DELIVERY, 1809. H.R.

DOCKET, 1757, 1769-1801, 1803-06, 1808-16. Each volume indexed. H.R.

COUNTY DOCKETS (JUDGMENT DOCKET), 1818-48. Also includes Appeals, 1831-48. Each volume indexed. H.R.

CITY DOCKETS (CASES INSTITUTED), 1817-30, 1832-50. Each volume indexed. H.R.

CITY APPEAL DOCKETS, 1829-46. Each volume indexed. H.R.

CASES INSTITUTED, 1851--. Brief record of cases instituted in Superior Court. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

INDEX TO CASES INSTITUTED, 1867--. Burr Record Index. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO LAW CASES, 1818-95. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1851--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS, 1817-44. H.R.

JUDICIAL RECORD, 1783--. Record of execution proceedings in County Court, 1783-1851, and in Superior Court, 1851--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDICIAL DOCKET, 1833--. Indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

CONSENT CASES, CONFESSIONS OF JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1923--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

TRIAL DOCKET, 1861--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO CONSENT CASES, CONFESSIONS OF JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1923--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

BOND RECORD, 1902--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1820-68. Each volume indexed by name of respondent. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY DOCKET, 1815-66. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD [FOR SALES OF LAND], 1815-83. Record of sale of land in equity cases. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DEED OF TRUST BOOK, 1910--. Record of deeds issued by trustees in insolvency. Each volume indexed. C.H.

OLD CHARTER RECORDS, 1804-53. A composite volume made up of corporation charters that were copied from the Chattel Records, which were later destroyed. Indexed. C.H.

CHARTER RECORDS, 1852--. Each volume indexed. 1852-1922. C.H.

INDEX TO CHARTER RECORDS, 1868-1952. C.H.

CO-PARTNERSHIPS AND DISSOLUTIONS, 1870--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE [LICENSE] RECORDS, 1777-1851. Card index. H.R.

RECORD OF STATEMENTS OF BOARD OF CANVASSERS OF ELECTION, 1896--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

COMMISSIONS OF CIVIL OFFICERS, 1878--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1788-1880, 1896--. Also includes oaths taken by commissioned officers in militia, 1860-63. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MILITIA REGISTRATION, 1794. Return of men of military age as required by Militia Act of 1793 (Chapter 53). Card index. H.R.

CONVICTS, 1770-74, 1783. Transcripts of the records of convicted felons imported into Maryland as servants, recorded under the provisions of Chapter 22 of the Acts of 1769. H.R.

RETURNABLE CONTAINERS ACT, 1882--. Registration of bottles by dairies, brewers and others using bottles. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LOG OF THE BARQUE COMMERCE J. ORAM MASTER BALTIMORE TO RIO DE JANEIRO AND RETURN, 1846. H.R.

RULE BOOK, 1807-21. Rules of Baltimore County Court. C.H.

Court of Common Pleas

MINUTES OF COURT (COURT RECORD), 1881--. C.H.

CASES INSTITUTED (TRIAL DOCKET, CITY TRIAL DOCKET), 1852--. Record of all civil suits and actions entered in each term of court. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff, 1852-63; by name of defendant, 1864--. C.H.

INDEX TO CASES INSTITUTED, 1870-78, 1930-36. Liber index. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

TRIAL CALENDAR, 1853-56, 1858-60, 1862-1902. Brief record of cases assigned for trial. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

LAW DOCKET, 1869-78. Brief record of motions in civil proceedings. C.H.

GENERAL INDEX—TRIALS, 1852-66. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

NON-JURY TRIAL DOCKET, 1896-1936. Indexed by name of defendant, 1896-1904. C.H.

CITY TRIAL DOCKET—TRANSFERRED CASES, 1852-54. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CITY APPEAL DOCKET, 1852-68. Brief record of appeals from Magistrates' Courts. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

GENERAL INDEX APPEALS (JUDGMENTS), 1851-68. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1860-1915. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1852--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

SUPPLEMENTARY JUDGMENT INDEX, 1873-82. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

RECORD OF JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, 1851-1916. 1917-- in Execution Docket. Proceedings in sale of land and other property in judicials by the sheriff. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

EXECUTION DOCKET, 1852--. Earlier volumes serve as dockets to Record of Judicial Proceedings. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

EJECTMENT RECORD, 1871--. Record of proceedings in suits of ejectment for trespass on leased property. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1852-1911. Includes Insolvent Trustee Bonds, 1857-1911. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX OF INSOLVENTS, 1851-1912. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1851-98. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DOCKET OF INSOLVENTS, 1843-76. Brief record of proceedings in insolvency cases in Baltimore County Court, 1843-51; Court of Common Pleas, 1851-76. C.H.

INSOLVENT TRUSTEE BONDS, 1851-56. 1857-1911 in Insolvent Record. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1902--. Record of bonds filed in court cases. Each volume indexed. C.H.

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION DOCKET, 1885--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1851--. Includes Record of Marriages by Banns, 1851-89. C.H.

INDEX TO MARRIAGES, 1851--. Card index by name of male only. C.H. 1885--. H.R. 1851-85, original and microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES BY BANNS, 1890--. 1851-89 in Record of Marriages. C.H.

MARRIAGE APPROVALS AND PROTESTS, 1903-28. Record of minors whose application for a marriage license has been approved or protested, by parent or guardian. Indexed by name of minor. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-1904. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

NATURALIZATION DOCKET [CITY COURT], 1796-1849, 1852-56. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF MINORS [CITY COURT], 1846-51. Indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF MINORS [CITY COURT], 1827-36, 1845-75. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATIONS [CITY COURT], 1845-51. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF MINORS [CITY COURT], 1867-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION [CITY COURT], 1867-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATION [CITY COURT], 1867-78, 1889-96, 1903-04. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO NATURALIZATION RECORDS [CITY COURT], 1867-1903. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF MINORS [SUPERIOR COURT], 1852-1903. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATIONS [SUPERIOR COURT], 1852-1903. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION [SUPERIOR COURT], 1897-1900, 1904-06. Each volume indexed, 1900-06. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION (DOCKET PETITIONS FOR NATURALIZATION) [SUPERIOR COURT], 1852-64, 1866-1903. C.H.

DECLARATION RECORD OF INTENTION [SUPERIOR COURT], 1899-1906. C.H.

DECLARATION RECORD OF INTENTION [CRIMINAL COURT], 1851-54, 1856-1903. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATIONS [CRIMINAL COURT], 1851-54, 1857-1900. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF MINORS [CRIMINAL COURT], 1851-61, 1875-1900. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION [CRIMINAL COURT], 1897-1900. C.H.

DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1851-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATION [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1852-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF MINORS [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1852-1905. C.H.

NATURALIZATION OF ALIENS FROM OTHER STATES [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1872-1903. Indexed. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR NATURALIZATION [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1897-1906. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD OF DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION (COURT OF COMMON PLEAS), 1906-33. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1907-26. C.H.

DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1911-33. C.H.

PETITIONS FOR NATURALIZATION [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1911-33. C.H.

MILITARY PETITIONS FOR NATURALIZATIONS [COURT OF COMMON PLEAS], 1918-24. C.H.

INDEX TO NATURALIZATION RECORDS, 1796-1927. Card index. C.H.

Criminal Court

MINUTES OF CRIMINAL COURT, 1857--. C.H.

INDICTMENT DOCKET, 1853--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

TRIAL DOCKET, 1870-73, 1882-83, 1890--. See also Judge's Trial Docket. C.H.

CRIMINAL COURT DOCKET, 1851-52, 1859-60. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDGE'S TRIAL DOCKET, 1883--. C.H.

SPECIAL DOCKET, 1898--. Docket of cases originating in States Attorney's Office. C.H.

APPEALS, 1864-67, 1882--. Docket of appeals from Magistrates Courts (replaced by Municipal Court in 1961). C.H.

RECOGNIZANCE DOCKET, 1883--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

RECORD BOOK, 1816, 1851-55. Appointment of Court officials and admission of attorneys to bar. C.H.

CITY COURT DOCKET, 1807-50. Contains proceedings of Court of Oyer and Terminer of Baltimore County, 1807-16, and of Baltimore City Court, 1816-50. Also includes Criminal Trials, Criminal Docket, Petition Docket, Peace Docket, Naturalizations, etc. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1782-88, 1790, 1821, 1831, 1845-52. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1851--. Various papers relating to trial of criminal cases. Well preserved. C.H.

Baltimore City Court

MINUTES OF BALTIMORE CITY COURT, 1870--. C.H.

CASES INSTITUTED, 1867--. Brief record of proceedings in all cases in instituted in City Court. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO CASES INSTITUTED, 1867--. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS (INDEX JUDGMENTS CASES INSTITUTED), 1867--. C.H.

TRIAL DOCKET, 1903-55. 1955--maintained by Central Assignment Bureau. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

APPEAL DOCKET, 1867--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX JUDGMENTS APPEAL DOCKET, 1867-1908. C.H.

EXECUTION DOCKET, 1868--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

NON-JURY TRIAL DOCKET, 1909, 1914--. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL TAX CASES, 1924--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO MAGISTRATES APPEALS, 1867-1940. C.H.

ASSESSMENT APPEALS, 1904-13. Appeals from decisions of Appeal Tax Court. C.H.

CITY DOCKET STREET APPEALS, 1884-98. Indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

PETITION DOCKET (STREETS), 1870-1940. Brief record of petitions and appeals from decisions of Street Commissioners. Each volume indexed. C.H.

HABEAS CORPUS PETITION DOCKET, 1905--. Since 1942, all habeas corpus proceedings in Baltimore City have been handled by the City Court. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CONFESSED JUDGMENTS DOCKET, 1924--. Earlier record in Cases Instituted. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

LIBER OF REAL PROPERTY SOLD UNDER EXECUTION AND CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS ON LAND, 1879-1902. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

EJECTMENT RECORD, 1870--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

BOND RECORD, 1902--. Record of bonds filed in court cases. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS BALTIMORE CITY COURT. Court Papers, 1867--; Habeas Corpus, 1881--.

Circuit Court

MINUTES CIRCUIT COURT, 1853-60, 1881--. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1853--. Also contains Releases of Trustees, 1915--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAINTIFFS, 1908--. Index to plaintiffs in divorce proceedings. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET A (MISCELLANEOUS), 1853--. Also contains Divorces, 1853-74; Foreclosures, 1853-74; Tax Sales, 1873--. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKET A (MISCELLANEOUS), 1853--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET B (DIVORCES), 1926--. 1853-74 in Equity Docket A (Miscellaneous). 1875-1925 in Equity Docket C (Foreclosures). C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET C (FORECLOSURES), 1875--. 1853-74 in Equity Docket A (Miscellaneous). Also contains Divorces, 1875-1925. C.H.

[INDEX TO] TAX SALES, 1873--. Index to Tax Sales in Equity Docket A (Miscellaneous); 1873-88 arranged by name of purchaser, 1888-- by date of entry. C.H.

RELEASES TO TRUSTEES, 1856-1915. 1915-- in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

BOND RECORD, 1902--. Record of bonds of trustees in equity proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ESTATE OF JOHN S. GITTINGS, 1880-85. Return of Commissioners, Inventory of Whole Estate, Plats of Whole Estate, Grand Division. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1853--. All papers relating to equity cases filed under number assigned to case. C.H.

Circuit Court No. 2

CHANCERY RECORD, 1888--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET A (MISCELLANEOUS), 1888--. Also contains Foreclosures, 1888-93; Divorces, 1888-93. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKET A (MISCELLANEOUS), 1888--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAINTIFFS (EQUITY DOCKET A, MISCELLANEOUS), 1908--. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET B (DIVORCES), 1894--. 1888-93 in Equity Docket A (Miscellaneous). Also contains Foreclosures, 1894-1926. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET C (FORECLOSURES), 1927--. 1888-93 in Equity Docket A (Miscellaneous); 1894-1926 in Equity Docket B (Divorces). C.H.

BOND RECORD, 1907--. 1888-1907 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RELEASES OF TRUSTEES, 1895-1924. 1924-- in Chancery Record. Indexed by name of trustee. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1889--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1888--. All papers relating to equity cases filed under number assigned to case. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1777--. Also contains Annual Valuations, 1777-1824. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1777-1851, microfilm; 1851--. H.R. 1777-1851; 1850-1951, microfilm.

INDEX TO ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1777--. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1777--. H.R. 1777-1951, microfilm.

COURT DOCKET, 1804-05, 1807-10, 1813--. Indexed by name of executor or administrator, 1804-76; indexed by name of decedent, 1877--. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1804-51.

ESTATE DOCKET, 1908--. C.H.

INDEX TO ESTATE DOCKET, 1908--. C.H.

WILLS, 1666--. Chronology erratic in early volumes. Baltimore City record begins Liber D.M.P. No. 24, folio 379. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1666-1852, microfilm; 1852--. H.R. 1666-1852; 1852-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1666--. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1666--. H.R. 1666-1850; 1666-1950, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1667--. Chronology erratic in early volumes. Baltimore City record begins Liber D.M.P. No. 20, folio 414. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1667-1852, microfilm; 1852--. H.R. 1667-1852.

RENUNCIATION NO WILL, 1825-93. Renunciation of right to administer an estate, approval of action by heirs, name of administrator appointed, dates of letters granted. Each volume indexed. C.H.

OATHS OF EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, 1845-1926. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1666--. Chronology erratic in early volumes. Baltimore City record begins Liber D.M.P. No. 65, folio 487. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1666-1852, microfilm; 1852--. H.R. 1666-1852.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES, 1666--. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1666--. H.R. 1666-1895.

ACCOUNT OF SALES, 1787--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ACCOUNT OF SALES, 1780--. Liber index. C.H. 1780--. H.R. 1780-1899.

CITY HOTEL (INVENTORY), 1863. Original inventory and appraisal of goods and chattels of City Hotel. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1674--. Chronology erratic in early volumes. Baltimore City record begins Liber D.M.P. No. 58, folio 44. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1674-1850, microfilm; 1850--. H.R. 1664-1852.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1674--. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1674--. H.R. 1674-1859, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1777--. Baltimore City record begins Liber D.M.P. No. 11, folio 363. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1777-1852, microfilm; 1852--. H.R. 1777-1852.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1786--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1786-1850, microfilm; 1850--. H.R. 1786-1851.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1786--. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1786--. H.R. 1786-1869, microfilm.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1777--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN ESTATE DOCKET, 1924--. C.H.

LEGAL AGE DOCKET, 1905-24. Record of date when ward attains legal age. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

INDEX MINORS GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1925. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

ANNUAL VALUATIONS, 1825-1904. 1777-1824 in Proceedings of Orphans Court. H.R.

RELEASES, 1810--. Each volume indexed by name of payee, executor or administrator. C.H.

INDEX TO RELEASES, 1810-56, 1909--. Liber index, 1810-56; Burr's Record Index, 1909--. C.H.

RELEASE OF TRUSTEES, 1907--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DOCKET OF ACCOUNTS [CLAIMS], 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE (SALES), 1870--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE DOCKET, 1870--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1794-1916. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. H.R.

FREEING SLAVES [CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM], 1805-1864. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPEALS AND ISSUES, 1825-84. Record of proceedings of the Orphans' Court in appeals. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1665--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1788--. H.R. 1665-1778 with card index.

Inventories. C.H. 1788--. H.R. 1676-1788 with card index.

Accounts. C.H. 1788--. H.R. 1674-1788 with card index.

Accounts of Sales. C.H. 1788--. H.R. 1780-88 with card index.

Petitions. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1780-89 with card index.

Estate Papers. C.H. 1924--.

Guardian Papers. C.H. 1924--.

In case the Voters of Baltimore County shall designate **TOWSON TOWN** as their County Seat of Justice, the undersigned, agree to give for the erection of a Court House and Jail for said county, a lot of ground not less than five acres, as numbered on the above Plat, from No. 1 to No. 5, inclusive—that is to say, Henry B. Chew, will give the choice of the five acres, in Lots No. 1, 2, or 3; Benj. N. Payne, will give the five acres in Lot No. 4, and Grafton M. Bosley, will give the five acres in Lot No. 5.

And we agree to leave it to the Commissioners of Baltimore County, or to any other proper authority, to determine which of the said Lots of five acres each, they will select for said purpose, and, which ever Lot may be selected, a good and sufficient Deed will be given for the same, for the use of said County.

WITNESS our hands this 14th day of December, 1853.

HENRY B. CHEW,
BENJ. N. PAYNE,
GRAFTON M. BOSLEY.

In case the Voters of Baltimore County shall designate Towson Town as their County seat of Justice, the undersigned, agrees to give for the Alms House for said County, forty acres of good land, within 2 miles of said Towson Town, and to execute a good and sufficient Deed for the same.

WITNESS, my hand, this 14th day of December, 1853.

J. RIDGELY, of H.

Above is a Plat of Towson Town, with the offer made by certain persons, to give FORTY FIVE ACRES of land to the County, to erect a Court House, Jail, Almshouse, and other appropriate buildings for the use of the County, all of which would then be convenient to each other. The central situation of this place—its accessibility from all parts of the County, by Turnpike and other roads, already opened, with a Rail Road about two miles from the spot; its high and healthy position, with pure water, and an abundance of building materials, evidently point to this place as the proper one, for locating a "COUNTY TOWN" for Baltimore County, and where it will not be put to the expense of making new roads, or MOVING ITS BUILDINGS AT A FUTURE PERIOD.

TOWSON TOWN.

Baltimore County, Brochure urging Towson as County Seat, 1853.

BALTIMORE COUNTY

Records

The reader may be startled that a county as old as Baltimore has records dating only as far back as 1851 when the county and town of Baltimore became separate governmental units. The reason for this division of records is a purely practical one. It was cheaper and more convenient to leave the records of Baltimore County in Baltimore City than to move them to the new county seat of Baltimore County in Towson. These records have fared well in Baltimore City and with the exception of the early administrative records and some of the judgment records they are intact.

Note

The following note of the Clerk of Court will be interesting because of its detailed description of the fire of 1835 and also because of its judgment as to the cause of the fire. For some curious reason arson was almost universally accepted as the cause of fire in courthouses.

> Entered in Minutes under date of Friday, February 13, 1835, Court met agreeably to adjournment.
>
> On This day about 11:00 o'Clock when the County Court in the upper Court room & the City Court in the lower room were both in session, The dome of the Courthouse was discovered to be on fire. Whether by accident or design is not known, yet the latter is supposed, because stoves were used in all the rooms but one, which are not likely to have conveyed sparks of fire from the tops of the chimneys used by them and if sparks had risen from the fireplace, the distance of that Chimney and all the others from the dome and the Wind at the time being from the South West would have borne the sparks across the House and not towards the dome—The general impression is that after the opening of the Jury room from a door opposite [the] Stairway which led up to the dome, the Key of which was tied to and left with the Key of that room in the door, must have been taken by someone unobserved and thereby got up there to the dome and set fire to the dome which is rendered the more probable as both Keys were, soon after the alarm of fire, found upon the private stairs leading to it.
>
> The Clerk deems it proper further to remark That all the Public Records, Books and papers have been pre[served] uninjured by the fire (at least none useful are missed) and very [illegible] but little wet by the great quantity of water s[prayed] by Engines into the building. These are the joint results [of] fire proof offices and the unremited [sic] care and attention of all the persons employed in the Office during the conflagration which continued through the day and most of the following night.

In the Proceedings of the May term 1836 of Baltimore County Court (pp. 197-198) there is an interesting account of the laying of the cornerstone of the Record Office built after the fire in the courthouse of February 13, 1835. There is so much relevant information given here and this kind of document so rare I have thought it worthwhile to quote it *in toto*.

> On motion of the Clerk, the Court here order and direct that the following be spread upon the minutes of the Court, to wit:
>
> "The ceremony of laying the cornerstone of the new City and County Record office, on the Court house lot, was yesterday (28th June) performed by Solomon Etting, Esq. President of the Board of Commissioners for repairing the Court house &c. assisted by General Samuel Smith, our venerable mayor, in presence of Chief Justice Taney, the Judges of the different Courts, and other City and County officers, and a numerous assemblage of Citizens and Strangers. Previous to fixing the Stone in its place, Mr. Etting addressed the meeting as follows:—Gentlemen: The destruction by fire of a

portion of the Court house of Baltimore City and County, on the 13th day of February, in the 58th year of the Independence of these United States, which endangered the Safety of the whole building, and of the records therein contained, induced the Legislature of the State of Maryland, at the ensuing Session, in order to prevent the recurrence of a similar risk, to pass an act to authorize the repairing of the Court house, and to erect a separate and fire-proof building, for the safe keeping of the records of Baltimore County Court, and the Orphans' Court of Baltimore County.

In partial compliance with that act, under the direction of the original, and now venerable builder, George Millerman, the repairs of the Court house have progressed nearly to their completion, and in furtherance of its full execution, this corner Stone of Baltimore City and County Record office, is now, on this 28th day of June, in the 60th year of the Independence of these United States, laid in its place, and the erection of the building commenced by the Commissioners constituted to carry the act of the Legislature into effect, with the architect, Clerk and builders appointed by them.

Solomon Etting, President.—Joseph Wilkins, William Jenkins, Edward Gray, Samuel Parker, Fielding Lucas, Jr., Commissioners.—Robert C. Long, architect.—Thomas R. Hand, Clerk.—Charles Timanus, Thomas Dean, Samuel Tucker, Nicholas Watkins, John W. Watkins, builders.

The Commissioners have been induced by order and established usage to deposit in this corner Stone the national coins of this date—the newspapers of the day, and the following documents, Viz.: The Declaration of Independence; The Constitution of the United States; The Constitution and Bill of Rights of the State of Maryland; A copy of the Act authorizing the erection of the building; The names of the several States and Territories at the present time composing the Union; The names of the officers of the Government of the United States; The names of the Governor of the State and Executive Council; The Chancellor; The Judges of the Court of Appeals; The Judges of the District Court of the United States for the State of Maryland; The Attorney of the United States for the State of Maryland; The Collector of the Customs for the Port of Baltimore; Surveyor of the Port; Naval officers of the Port; Marshall of the United States for the District of Maryland; Clerk of the District Court; Judges of Baltimore County Court; Clerk of Baltimore County Court; Sheriff of Baltimore County; Judges of Baltimore City Court; Clerk of Baltimore City Court; Judges of the Orphans' Court of Baltimore County; Register of Wills; Mayor of the City of Baltimore; Members of both branches of the City Council; County Commissioners; Treasurer and Clerk; City Commissioners and Clerk; Commissioners of Health and Secretary; Commissioners of public schools; Register of the City; Collector of the City; Members of the Senate and House of Representatives in Congress from the State of Maryland.

These documents were then handed by the President of the Board to the Mayor, requesting him, on the Chief authority of the City, to deposit them in the cavity prepared for their reception; this done, the top Stone was lowered, and the ceremony concluded. The building thus to be erected covers an area of 54 by 68 feet. The first, or ground floor is intended for the accommodation of the County Clerk, and the Records of the City and County. The Second floor is arranged for the Orphans' Court, with a separate entrance and a Court room. Registers' and Retiring room, the first and last of which arrangements must prove peculiarly grateful to females having business in the Court. The building is to be of a plain Grecian Character, faced with dressed granite from the Patapsco quarries, furnished by the Messrs. Ellicott, and the Stories throughout are to be vaulted so as to render them completely fire proof."

The prolonged search for a county seat for the newly-created separate Baltimore County ended, after three years, in the choice of Towson. In addition to the in-fighting, there were of course, elections, and elections even in those days demanded propaganda of which the broadside favoring Towson herewith reproduced is a good example.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1851--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1851--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1851-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1851--. Campbell, 1851-1922; Cottco Universal, 1922--. C.H. 1851--. L.O. 1851-1950, microfilm. H.R. 1851-1950, microfilm.

MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1852-1928. 1928-- in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1852-1928. H.R. 1852-1916, microfilm.

CHATTEL RECORDS, 1851--. Also contains Incorporation Records, 1851-74; Releases, 1851-77; Bond Records, 1851-1902; Civil Commissions, 1851-1923. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1946, microfilm.

INDEX TO CHATTEL RECORDS (INDEX TO CHATTELS AND BONDS), 1874--. Burr's Record Index, 1874-1951. Cottco Universal Index, 1951--. C.H.

RELEASES, 1877--. 1851-77 in Chattel Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RELEASE DOCKET, 1879--. C.H.

INQUISITION DOCKET, 1850--. Brief record of proceedings in land condemnation. After 1912 found in Condemnation Docket. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CONDEMNATION DOCKET, 1912--. Proceedings in condemnations to acquire land. Prior to 1912 found in Inquisition Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ESTATE OF WILLIAM WILKINS, 1883. Complete recording of estate papers, plus maps of the Wilkins real estate holdings which included large areas of Baltimore City. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, 1851--. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1933--. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAT BOOKS, 1851--. On cards. Includes index to plats found in the State Roads Commission Plat Books, index to tract and subdivision names, index by owner's name and index to land acquired by County Commissioners. C.H.

COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1851--. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORD, 1852--. Includes equity proceedings. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

LAW DOCKET (JUDGMENT DOCKET), 1848--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

DEFENDANT INDEX TO JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1852--. Alphabetical index, 1852-1922. Cottco Universal, 1922--. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1914--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDICIAL DOCKET, 1860--. Record of executions in Judgments. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1852-1857, 1870--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKETS, 1912--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKETS, 1851--. Each volume indexed, 1851-1923. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1929, microfilm.

INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKETS, 1851--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

DEFENDANTS INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKET, 1851--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H. 1908--. H.R. 1908-43, microfilm.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1902--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1902--. H.R. 1902-45, microfilm.

Baltimore County Courthouse of 1857.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1853--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1868-1918. Since 1918, persons applying for naturalization have been referred to the Federal District Court in Baltimore. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1868-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

INCORPORATION RECORDS, 1874--. 1851-74 in Chattel Records. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1874--. H.R. 1874-1947, microfilm.

INDEX TO MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1851-86. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1886-1922. Combined Campbell index and record. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886-1922. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1922-. Applications and ministers' returns bound together. Cottco Universal index by names of male and female. C.H.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1896--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ELECTION AFFIDAVITS [REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS], 1901-49. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS, 1923--. 1851-1923 in Chattel Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOKS, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1851--. Include Law Papers, 1851--; Equity Papers, 1851--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS (PROCEEDINGS OF COURT), 1851--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1954, microfilm.

INDEX TO ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1851--. Liber index, 1851-1909; Burr's Record Index, 1910--. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1947, microfilm.

PETITION DOCKET, 1851--. Record of petitions filed in judicial proceedings of Orphans' Court. Also includes State Docket (Citations), 1851-77; Appeals and Issues, 1952--. Each volume indexed by name of petitioner and defendant. C.H.

APPEALS AND ISSUES, 1852-1952. 1952-- in Petition Docket. Record of proceedings in Orphans' Court subsequently appealed to Circuit Court or Court of Appeals. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ARBITRATIONS, 1854-1914. 1914-- in Petition Docket. Record of disputes between claimants and executors or administrators settled by arbitration. Indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET (ESTATE DOCKET), 1851--. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION DOCKET (INDEX TO ESTATE DOCKET), 1851--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

WILLS, 1851--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1954, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1851--. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1851-1950, microfilm.

RENUNCIATIONS, 1851--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1851--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1851--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL INVENTORY [INVENTORIES OF REAL ESTATE], 1933--. 1851-1933 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX FOR REAL AND PERSONAL INVENTORIES, 1851--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

ACCOUNT SALES, 1852--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ACCOUNT SALES, 1852--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1852--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1851--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1852--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIANS ESTATE DOCKET, 1851--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RELEASES, 1852--. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

INDEX TO RELEASES, 1852--. Indexed by name of releasor and names of executor, administrator or guardian. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

VOUCHER DOCKET [CLAIMS], 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ACCOUNT OF SALES OF REAL ESTATE IN EQUITY, 1865--. Each volume indexed by name of decedent or plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1851-1913. Indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1851--. C.H.

Wills. 1851--.

Renunciations. 1851-1908.

Administration Bonds. 1851-1908.

Inventories. 1851-1908.

Account Sales. 1852-1908.

Administration Accounts. 1851-1908.

Petitions and Orders. 1851-1908.

Estate Papers. 1908--. Includes all items above except Wills.

Guardian Accounts. 1852--.

Releases. 1852--.

Proceedings in Guardian Matters. 1913--.

Cases Recorded in Appeals and Issues. 1892--.

Petition Docket Cases. 1925--.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT (LEVY PAPERS, LEVY BOOKS), 1798, 1804-08, 1810-16, 1818, 1820-27. H.R.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS (PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL), 1827--. C.H. 1863--. H.R. 1827-63.

LEVY LISTS (LEVY BOOKS), 1817, 1819-24, 1827-55, 1858, 1860-1927. Also includes Cash Books, 1820-27. C.H. 1858-1927. H.R. 1817-55.

ASSESSMENTS, 1804, 1813, 1818, 1823-24, 1833, 1841. (Incomplete). H.R.

ASSESSMENT RECORDS, 1928--. C.H.

INDEX TO ASSESSMENT RECORDS, 1928--. C.H.

ASSESSMENT CARDS, 1939--. Card record of property assessments. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS, 1818, 1823, 1833, 1841, 1852-58, 1876, 1899, 1901, 1903-05, 1907, 1910, 1912-27. C.H. 1876-1927. H.R. 1818-58.

TRANSFERS AND RELEASES, 1814-40, 1842-51, 1877, 1898-1910, 1920-23, 1935-56. C.H. 1877-1956. H.R. 1814-51.

ABATEMENTS, ERRONEOUS ASSESSMENTS AND INSOLVENCIES, 1852-57, 1859. H.R.

ASSESSMENT ON SALARIES, EMOLUMENTS, INCOME, ETC., 1843-45. H.R.

ALPHABETICAL LISTS OF ASSESSED PERSONS, 1804, 1813-14, 1817-20, 1828-45, 1847-55. H.R.

ALPHABETICAL LISTS FOR COLLECTORS, 1822-23, 1831, 1833, 1859. Duplicate lists prepared for use of tax collectors. H.R.

ASSESSMENT LEDGERS, 1813-22. H.R.

DAY BOOKS OF TREASURER, 1827-29, 1831-63. H.R.

LEDGERS OF TREASURER, 1827-78. H.R.

RECEIPT BOOKS OF TREASURER, 1827-55. H.R.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF RECEIPTS, 1827-35. Index to Receipt Books of Treasurer. H.R.

CASH BOOKS FOR COUNTY AND STATE TAXES, 1847-55. Record of taxes collected. H.R.

DAY BOOK, KEPT BY ROBERT WALSH, PRESIDENT OF THE LEVY COURT, 1817. H.R.

LEDGERS OF LEVY COURT, 1818-31. H.R.

TAX LEDGERS (LEGER), 1830-32, 1852-66, 1896-1911, 1918-19, 1923, 1925-28. C.H. 1896-1928. H.R. 1830-66.

INSOLVENT DEBTORS RELEASED AND OTHER CHARGES ALLOWED TO MATTHEW MURRAY, SHERIFF, 1816-17. H.R.

RETURNS OF BANK AND OTHER STOCKS, 1846-47, 1853. H.R.

NUMBER OF MORTGAGES RETURNED BY CLERK OF COURT, 1846-47. H.R.

BANK BOOK, COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, 1827-32. H.R.

ROAD SUPERVISORS ACCOUNTS, 1804-05, 1808-12. H.R.

SUPERVISORS DOCKET (SUPERVISORS OF PUBLIC ROADS IN BALTIMORE COUNTY), 1820-57. H.R.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF SUPERVISORS OF ROADS, 1833-46, 1848-53. H.R.

ROAD RECORDS, 1845-58, 1863-68, 1877-1913. Indexed. C.H.

ROAD DOCKET (COMMISSIONS ON ROADS, LEVY COURT), 1823-53, 1876-1913. Indexed by name of road, 1876-1913. C.H. 1876-1913. H.R. 1823-53.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HIGHWAY COMMISSION, 1904-25. Indexed by name of road or street. C.H.

CASH BOOK, HIGHWAY COMMISSION, 1904-21. Record of expenditures for roads and bridges. Indexed. C.H.

ALMSHOUSE MINUTES, LEVY COURT, 1806-18. H.R.

GROUND RENTS FOR ALMSHOUSE LOTS, 1810-19. H.R.

OUTDOOR PENSIONERS ACCOUNTS, 1817-19. H.R.

RECEIPT BOOK FOR PAYMENT OF ORDERS DRAWN BY THE SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS, 1849-57. H.R.

PUBLIC SCHOOL FUNDS, 1852-56, 1861-76. Record of expenditures of School Commissioners. C.H. 1861-76. H.R. 1852-56.

CONSTABLES BONDS AND COLLECTORS BONDS, 1827-49. H.R.

[TOBACCO] INSPECTION BOOKS, 1790-1826. H.R.

CRIMINAL LEVY PAPER FOR CITY AND PRECINCTS OF BALTIMORE, 1817. H.R.

LIST OF LAWS RELATING TO THE COMMISSIONERS OF BALTIMORE COUNTY, 1769-1858. H.R.

EXPENSES OF CIRCUIT COURT FOR BALTIMORE COUNTY, 1850-57. H.R.

CONSTITUTION AND BYE LAWS [AND MINUTES] OF THE UNION SOCIETY OF JOURNEYMEN CORDWAINERS OF THE CITY AND PRECINCTS OF BALTIMORE, 1806-09. H.R.

[CHARLES DUER, DRY GOODS MERCHANT, BALTIMORE], LEDGER A, 1818-19. H.R.

[JOHN W. HAMMOND, DRUGS], DAY BOOK, 1827-29. H.R.

[HUGHSON & VAIL, SADDLERS, BALTIMORE], DAY BOOK, 1841-45; Ledger, 1845-46. H.R.

[MARRIOTT, MARYE & CO.], LEDGER, 1843-48. Indexed. H.R.

CALVERT COUNTY

Records

Of all the county records of Maryland none has suffered greater losses than those of Calvert County. There was one move, from Battle Town to Prince Frederick Town, and a move of this kind inevitably causes losses, especially among the "old and useless" records. Thereafter, there was the fire of 1748. In the account of the fire found in the *Maryland Gazette,* it is said that "by the Diligence of the People, the greatest Part of the Records were preserved." Such a judgment is always extremely hazardous, and in the case of records it is doubly so, because it can be only an honest guess. What is likely is that the principal land and probate records were saved because we hear of no re-recordings and that everything else, including the new accumulation of loose papers, perished. Curiously enough, whatever records were saved were unavailable because the Clerk, Samuel Harrison refused to let anyone see them.

According to the complaint filed by the Justices of Calvert County, the Clerk of their Court, one Samuel Harrison attempted to avoid paying his honest debts by refusing to let anyone see the records. His Deputy Ellis Slater deposed as follows:

> 5th Did not some of the Justices of the County af^{d} on the day after the Court house burnt apply to Mr Harrison to inspect what Damage the Records had sustained and that He refused to suffer them so to do
>
> Ans^{r} To the best of my Remembrance Mr Weemes Dr Somerville and Major William Ireland did apply and desire to see the Records but said Harrison refused, locking the Door where the same was lodged and put the Key in his Pockett and carryed the same home, afterwards the Gent^{n} aforesaid appointed to meet some days after and Ordered this Respondant to Acquaint Mr Harrison thereof & desire him to meet them or send the Key. This Respondant did acquaint said Harrison according to Request, but he neither met them nor sent the key as he was desired[1]

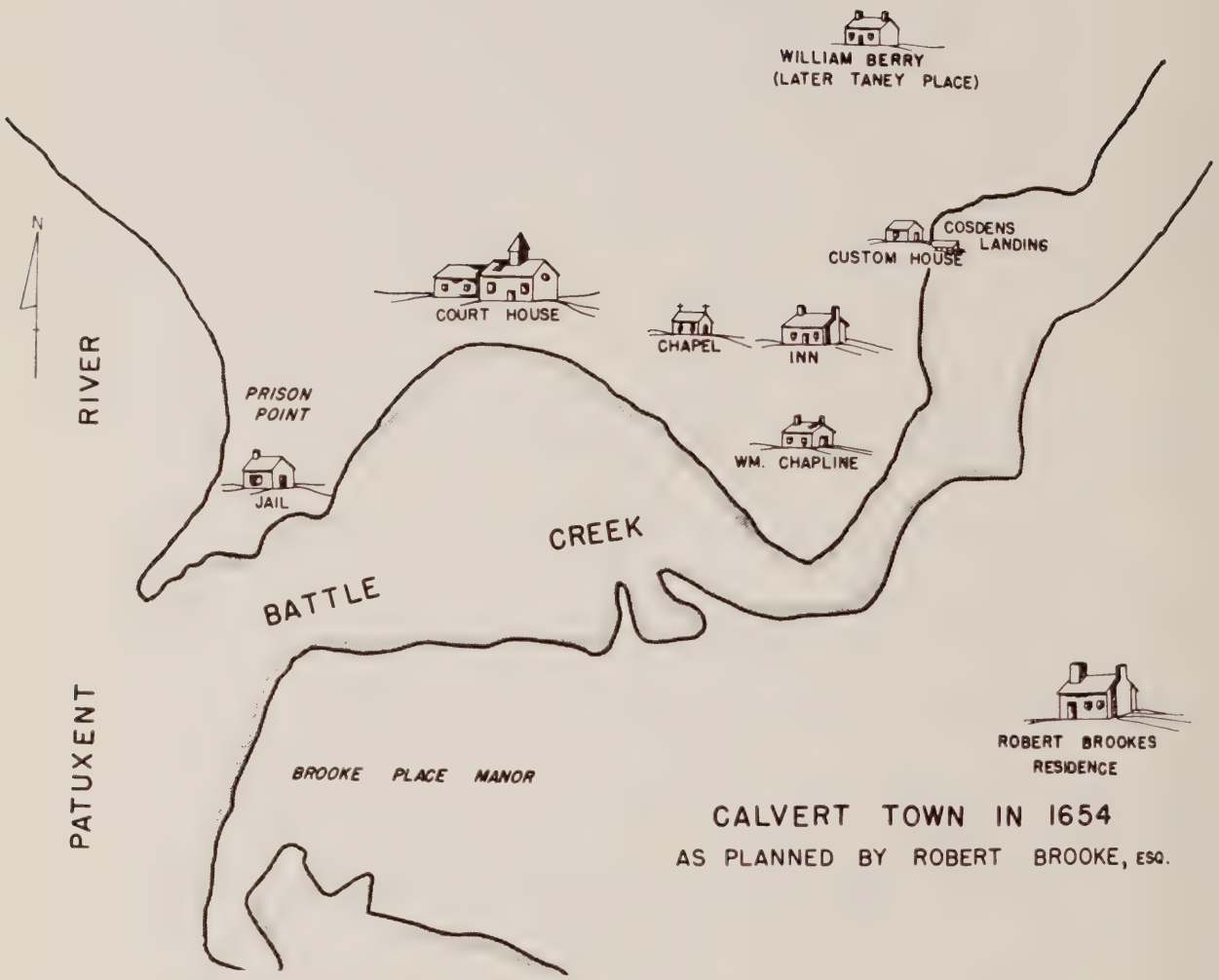
When the British burned the courthouse, in 1814, report was that the records had been removed in advance by the county authorities. There is some likelihood to this story because the redcoats had been raiding about in the neighborhood for several days before the march on Prince Frederick, but again it is still unlikely that all the records were removed. In any case, the slate was wiped clean by the fire of 1882; whatever might have been saved from the earlier fires only served finally to provide more fuel for the latest one. Scisco found a stark summary of the loss in the Baltimore *Sun*:

> "Mr. Somerville Sollers, clerk of the county court, was in his office in the court house, and saved some papers, but with these exceptions all the county records were lost. Every book and paper in the county commissioners' office and in the office of the register of wills were burned up. In the clerk's office all the original papers were lost, and a great many records, running as far back as 1650, and many papers of great interest relating to the early history of the county. These records and papers were invaluable, and their loss will cause inconveniences and expenses that will be felt for many years."[2]

If Somerville Sollers actually saved any papers they too were lost in the Rectory fire a few months later, because nothing antedating this last misfortune has come down to us, with the exception of one volume of re-recordings of land records, a pitiful remnant of a rich store.

[1] *Arch. of Md.*, XXVIII, pp. 444-45.

[2] Louis Dow Scisco, "Calvert County Court Houses and Records," *Md. Hist. Mag.* XXVII, 36-41.



Calvert County, County Seat at Calvert Town.

The searcher is reminded here that insofar as the probate records are concerned most if not all of those of Calvert County through the year 1776 are preserved in the records of the Secretary of the Province and of the Prerogative Court which were formerly in the Land Office and are now at the Hall of Records. Unfortunately, the law of 1784 which provided that an abstract of every deed record be sent from the county to the Court of Appeals was not strictly enforced, but three volumes have survived for this period: 1787-1817, 1863-1867, and 1873 to the time of the fire. The original abstract volumes are in the Land Office; microfilm copies, in the Hall of Records.

Note

The Metes and Bounds of the courthouse lot at Battle Town we found in *Provincial Court Judgments* (W.T. No. 4, 1702, ff 126-27, *Ms.* Hall of Records). However the exact location of the several county buildings and their appearance still escape us. A plausible effort to solve both problems was made by Charles F. Stein. His carefully considered plan is here reprinted with his kind permission (*A History of Calvert County, Maryland,* Baltimore, 1960, p. 222).

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1840--. Original volumes predating 1882 were destroyed in the Courthouse fire of 1882. Conveyances for 1840-81 were copied from original instruments that were recorded anew and given legal effect by Chapter 117, Acts of 1884 and Chapter 116, Acts of 1886. See also Abstracts of Deeds. Earlier volumes include mortgages which were established as a separate series in 1926. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1840--. L.O. 1949--. H.R. 1840-1952, microfilm.

MORTGAGES, 1926--. 1840-1926 in Land Records. C.H. 1926--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1840--. Campbell. Includes deeds, mortgages and chattel records. C.H. 1840--. L.O. 1840-1916, microfilm. H.R. 1840-1951, microfilm.

ABSTRACTS OF DEEDS, 1785-87, 1792-98, 1801-02, 1807-17, 1863-67, 1873-75, 1882-1949. L.O. 1785-1933. H.R. 1933-49; 1785-1893, microfilm.

INDEX TO [ABSTRACTS OF] DEEDS, 1785-1945. L.O. 1785-1909, 1933-45. H.R. 1909-33; 1785-1909, microfilm.

INDEX TO LANDS CONVEYED, 1785-1893. Index to instruments in Abstracts of Deeds by tract name. L.O. 1785-1893. H.R. 1785-1893, microfilm.

PLAT BOOK, 1930--. 1882-1929 in Land Records. Indexed. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

PETITION RECORD, 1882--. Record of petitions filed in tax sales, insolvencies, division of estates, condemnation of land for roads, etc. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORD, 1882--. C.H.

DOCKET, 1882--. Includes Court Minutes. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1883--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

EXECUTION RECORD, 1882--. Record of proceedings in sale of land and other property in judicials. Indexed. C.H.

PETITION DOCKET [MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET], 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF BONDS, 1902--. 1882-1902 in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DECREES IN DIVORCE CASES, 1909--. 1882-1908 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

RECORD OF RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1884-1923. 1924-- in Chancery Record. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1882--. Each volume indexed by names of male and female. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

RECORD OF ELECTION RETURNS, 1899--. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902--. Arranged alphabetically by name of voter. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1882--. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1848--. Include Law Papers, 1882--; Equity Papers, 1848--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1882--. H.R. 1882-1952, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1882--. H.R. 1882-1937, microfilm.

PETITION RECORD, 1919--. 1882-1918 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Record of petitions filed by trustees and guardians requesting authority to sell real estate and securities, court orders authorizing sale and reports of sale. Indexed. C.H.

PETITION DOCKET, 1919-32. Brief record of petitions filed in Orphans Court. Indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1882--. Indexed in Administration Docket. C.H. 1882--. H.R. 1882-1950, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BOND RECORD, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1882--. H.R. 1882-1955, microfilm.

ACCOUNTS, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1882--. H.R. 1882-1951, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BOND RECORD, 1882--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS (GUARDIAN RECORD), 1882--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN STET DOCKET, 1883--. Indexed. C.H.

CLAIM LIST, 1882--. Indexed. C.H.

LAND SALES, 1883--. Indexed. C.H.

LAND SALES DOCKET, 1883--. Indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS (ESTATE PAPERS), 1882--. Papers for 1882-1931 are segregated according to type of record: Wills, Administration Bonds, Inventories, Administration Accounts, Guardian Bonds, Guardian Accounts, Land Sales, Petitions, Orders of Court, etc. Since 1932, all papers relating to each estate are filed together under the title, Estate Papers. C.H.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS, 1888--. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1882--. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1883--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LEDGER [ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS], 1894-1910. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

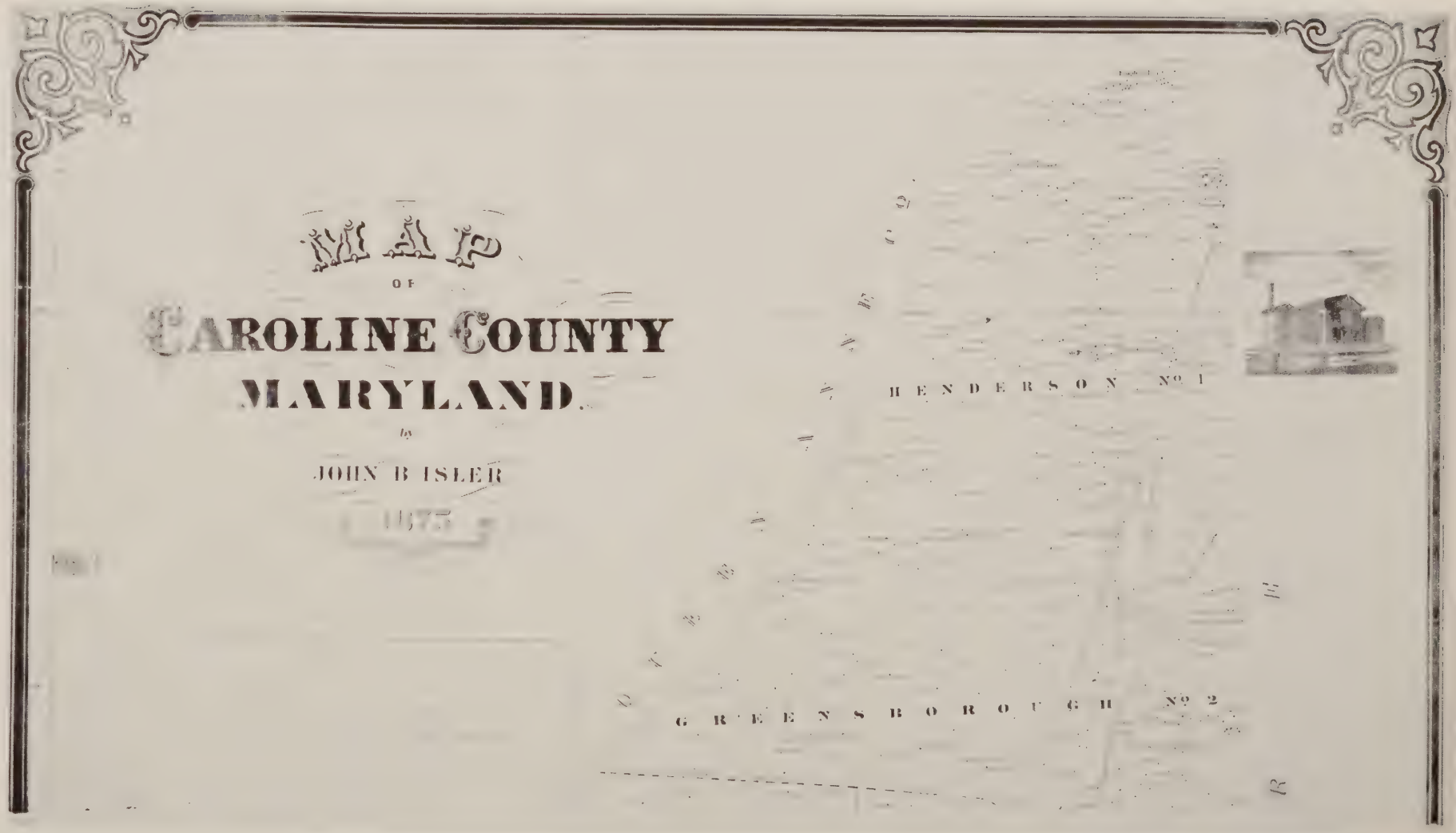
TAX COLLECTION ACCOUNTS, 1882-92. Indexed. C.H.

ROAD PETITIONS, 1882--. Record of petitions for construction and improvements to roads. C.H.

ROAD COMMISSIONERS (SUPERVISORS ACCOUNTS), 1882-1905. Accounts of expenditures for salaries, equipment and supplies in road construction and repairs. Indexed by name of supervisor. C.H.

ROAD DEEDS, 1934--. Original deeds conveying right-of-ways for roads to county commissioners. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF BUILDING COMMITTEE, 1915-17. Original papers relating to construction of new courthouse. C.H.



Map of Caroline County, with Courthouse of 1797.

CAROLINE COUNTY

Records

The major series of bound records have been preserved: the land records, the records of the judgments of the court, the wills and other probate records. Unfortunately, the administrative records, those of the Levy Court as well as those of the justices of the court acting as an administrative body, have totally disappeared. For some reasons the judgment records and minutes do not even contain the orders of court, a rich source for local history in other Eastern Shore counties. Most of the unbound records in the office of the Register of Wills have been preserved, but the early papers of the county court have been lost. Since there have been no fires in the courthouse, we can only guess that these losses came about at the building of the new courthouse or during one or more of the extensive renovations of which we have knowledge.

It is necessary to add, unfortunately, that in 1955, a large collection of 19th century miscellaneous court papers which had found its way to Delaware was offered for sale to the Hall of Records. They were not purchased and have perhaps disappeared by this time.

The searcher will note that there are two volumes of records of the Register of Wills listed here below which antedate the erection of this County. It is generally held that these volumes are copies of the records from the area which became Caroline County and taken from the records of Dorchester County. Scisco feels that they might even be original records of Dorchester County, but this does not seem possible.[1]

Note

Subsequent to the appearance of Volume 1 of this work the question of Buckland's part in the design of the 1790 courthouse was reconsidered by Rosamond Randall Beirne and John H. Scarff in *William Buckland, Architect of Virginia and Maryland,* (The Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1958, p. 110). Here is their conclusion.

"The court house was not built until 1795, whether after Buckland's plans we do not know."

An interesting architectural judgment of the 1895 Courthouse by Roger D. Redden appeared in the Baltimore *Sun* of August 22, 1961:

"The building is a great hulk: it is large, ugly and totally inexpressive. The general pattern on which it was built was almost 50 years old in this [Caroline] county and the building gives no sign of local originality, ingenuity or need. It is marked by a stiffness and a coldness which is totally unrepresentative of the community."

In following the early meetings of the Court of Caroline County in the first volume of this study I mentioned Bridgetown and noted that this is now Greensboro (p. 45). Perhaps this should be clarified. The Bridgetown intended was chartered in 1732 and was referred to in the minutes of the Court interchangeably as Choptank Bridge or Bridgetown. In November 1791, the General Assembly authorized the purchase and laying out of up to 100 acres con-

[1] Louis Dow Scisco, "Colonial Records of Caroline and Harford Counties," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, 26, p. 137.

tiguous to Choptank Bridge to be erected into a village to be called Greensboro. The present day Bridgetown lies on the Tuckahoe and was chartered by an Act of Assembly of 1839. (Ch. 281).

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1774--. Includes Mortgages until 1895 and Chattel Mortgages until 1861. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1774--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1774-89; 1774-1950, microfilm.

MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1896--. 1774-1895 in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1774--. C. H. Cott, 1774--; Campbell, 1774-1880. H. R. Campbell, 1774-1851, microfilm.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1774-93. Also includes Marriage Licenses. H.R.

PLATS, 1937--. Earlier plats in Land Records. C.H.

INDEX TO PLATS, 1791--. Includes plats recorded in Land Records. C.H.

SURVEYOR'S BOOK, 1879-83. Reports from county surveyor giving name of property owner, diagram number and record of each lot, description and location. C.H.

TAX SALE RECORD, 1883--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TAX SALES DOCKET, 1883--. Brief record of tax sales. Indexed. C.H.

MINUTE BOOKS (ROUGH MINUTE BOOKS), 1775-84, 1788, 1791-1805, 1818-21, 1825-58, 1907-12, 1922--. C.H. 1926--. H.R. 1775-1925.

CIVIL JUDGMENTS, 1774-89. Liber for 1774-86 indexed. H.R.

SHORT RECORD OF JUDGMENTS, 1816-1937. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO [SHORT RECORD OF] JUDGMENTS, PLAINTIFF, 1846-94. C.H.

INDEX TO [SHORT RECORD OF] JUDGMENTS, DEFENDANT, 1846-94. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1882--. General Index to Court and Magistrates Judgments. C.H.

COURT DOCKET, 1777-84, 1786-95, 1797-1808, 1810-14, 1816-36, 1838-39, 1841-47, 1852, 1864, 1874, 1876, 1893--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1808--. H.R. 1777-1806.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS, 1774--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1793--. H.R. 1774-1792.

ALPHABET TO CRIMINAL RECORDS, 1774-1784. Covers Liber A and part of Liber B. H.R.

STET DOCKET, 1874--. Indexed. C.H.

SHERIFF'S SALE RECORD, 1785-92, 1797--. Proceedings in the sale of real and personal property in judicials. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDICIAL DOCKET, 1895--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECOGNIZANCE RECORD, 1774-1778, 1811-43. C.H.

APPEAL DOCKET, 1837-39. Criminal appeals from magistrates courts. C.H.

SUPERSEDEAS, 1809, 1819-20, 1826-1916. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1826-1916. H.R. 1809-20.

INSOLVENCY RECORDS, 1859-70, 1876-80. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1877--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1807--. Contains Divorce Decrees, 1882-1908. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREE RECORD, 1909--. 1882-1908 in Chancery Record. Indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY INDEX BOOK, 1883--. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1815--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION SERVICE PETITION AND RECORD, 1905--. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION [NATURALIZATION], 1905--. Indexed. C.H.

CORPORATION RECORDS, 1867--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1797-1886. 1774-93 in Land Commissions. H.R. has card index, 1774-1886. C.H. 1774-93. H.R. 1774-1886, 1774-1865, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-84. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-84. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

REGISTRY OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902--. Indexed. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS OF PERSONS LEAVING STATE TEMPORARILY, 1905--. Indexed. C.H.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS, 1853--. Indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOK (OATHS), 1799--. C.H. 1860. H.R. 1799-1859.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1806-1857. Indexed by name of Negro. H.R.

TOBACCO INSPECTION PROCEEDINGS, 1774-93. H.R.

LISTS OF ORPHANS PLACED UNDER GUARDIANS OR BOUND AS APPRENTICES, 1760-77. H.R.

SHERIFF'S DOCKET, 1818-19. Brief record of prisoners in custody for trial. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1775--. Include Law Papers, 1775--; Equity Papers, 1812--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1807--. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1807-53; 1828-1955, microfilm.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1818-21, 1829-78, 1880--. Missing dates partially filled by Office Docket, 1825-28. Liber for 1877, 1880-88 also contains Petitions and Caveats, 1897-1944. C.H. 1889--. H.R. 1818-88.

OFFICE DOCKET, 1818-21, 1825-51, 1861-64, 1868-76. Duplicate copy of Orphans Court Docket prepared for use of Register of Wills. Note duplicate of Liber for 1825-28 is missing from Orphans Court Docket. H.R.

ADMINISTRATION KEY, 1805--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1805-53.

PETITIONS AND COURT ORDERS, 1903--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1688--. Includes transcripts of Dorchester County Wills, 1688-1773. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1688-1853, microfilm; 1853--. H.R. 1688-1853; 1853-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1688--. Liber index. C.H. 1688--. H.R. 1688-1947, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1679-1851, 1870-85, 1898--. Includes transcripts of Dorchester County Bonds, 1679-1774. First volume also contains Certificates of Freedom, 1807-63. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1679-1851; 1778-1851, microfilm.

APPLICATIONS FOR LETTERS (PETITIONS AND APPLICATIONS), 1912--. Applications for letters of administration and letters testamentary. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1680--. Includes transcripts of Dorchester County Inventories, 1680-1775 and Queen Anne's County Inventories, 1767. Liber J. Y. No. E also contains Accounts of Sales, 1816-21, 1826-31. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1856--. H.R. 1680-1856; 1680-1850, microfilm.

REAL ESTATE APPRAISEMENT RECORD, 1913--. Inventories of real estate. For earlier record see Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SALES ORDERS, 1912--. Orders of Orphans' Court directing sale of personal property. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ACCOUNT OF SALES, 1822-26, 1831--. 1816-21 and 1826-31 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1822-52.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1703-76, 1779--. Includes transcripts of Dorchester County Accounts, 1703-76. Distributions also included since 1925. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1703-1850; 1703-1850, microfilm.

DISTRIBUTION RECORD, 1812-1925. Earlier and later records included in Administration Accounts. Liber W. A. F. No. C lacks first 22 pages. C.H. 1872-1925. H.R. 1812-72; 1812-53, microfilm.

COURT RECORD (INDENTURES), 1785-1907. Contains indentures, guardian bonds, annual valuations, releases and receipts. C.H. 1853-1907. H.R. 1785-1853.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1853--. 1785-1853 in Court Record. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1787--. Liber J. Y. No. A also includes Guardian Key, 1805-08. Most volumes indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1857--. H.R. 1787-1857; 1787-1847, microfilm.

GUARDIAN KEY, 1810--. 1805-08 in Guardian Accounts. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1860--. H.R. 1810-60; 1810-60, microfilm.

LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP, 1912--. For earlier record see Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RELEASE RECORD, 1898--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1866--. H.R. 1854-66.

REAL ESTATE RECORDS (LAND RECORD BOOK), 1866--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE DOCKET (CHANCERY DOCKET), 1868--. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1807-63. See Administration Bonds, 1679-1776.

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE CHARITY SCHOOL FUND FOR MIDDLE DISTRICT, 1825-54. H.R.

LEDGER OF JAMES B. STEELE, SCHOOL COMMISSIONER, DISTRICT No. 2, 1870-71. H.R.

DAY BOOK OF GENERAL STORE, DENTON, 1813-14. H.R.

SETH GOODWIN, LEDGER, 1821-24. Index. H.R.

WILLIAM G. NICHOLSON, DENTON, DAY BOOK, 1851-52. H.R.

McGONIGAL & MOORE. JOURNAL, 1852-59. Ledger, 1853-57. Indexed. H.R.

JAMES B. STEELE, LEDGER, 1864-72. Index. H.R.

RECORD OF THE CHOPTANK BASEBALL CLUB, 1866-73. Includes box scores, mostly incomplete, of a number of games. Also contains Constitution and Minutes of the Young Peoples Moral Aid Society, 1879. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1679--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1688-1837 with card index to 1797.

Administration Bonds. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1679-1837 with card index to 1790.

Inventories. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1680-1837 with card index to 1791.

Administration Accounts. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1695-1837 with card index to 1791.

Guardian Bonds. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1779-1837.

Guardian Accounts. C.H. 1831--. H.R. 1788-1830.

Valuations of Lands. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1779-1836.

Accounts of Sales. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1785-1836.

Indentures. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1794-1836.

Distributions. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1812-37.

Final Receipts. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1814-37.

Awards. C.H. 1838--. H.R. 1818-37.

Libels, Depositions, Commissions, etc. C.H. 1832--. H.R. 1811-31.

Charity School Fund Stock Certificates Held by Justices of the Orphans' Court, 1806, 1808, 1834 and Commissioners Reports and Vouchers, 1835-1864. H.R.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS, 1850-53, 1886--. Liber for 1893-97 also contains Minutes of the Union Silk Company, 1838-39. C.H.

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TAX, 1811. H.R.

LEVY BOOKS, 1877-1932. Record of proceedings of special meetings of county commissioners concerning estimates of expenditures for ensuing year. C.H.

LEVY LISTS (EXPENDITURES), 1839, 1846, 1861-78, 1882-90. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS (ASSESSMENTS), 1866, 1897-98, 1910--. Each volume indexed, 1897--. C.H. 1938--. H.R. 1897-1937.

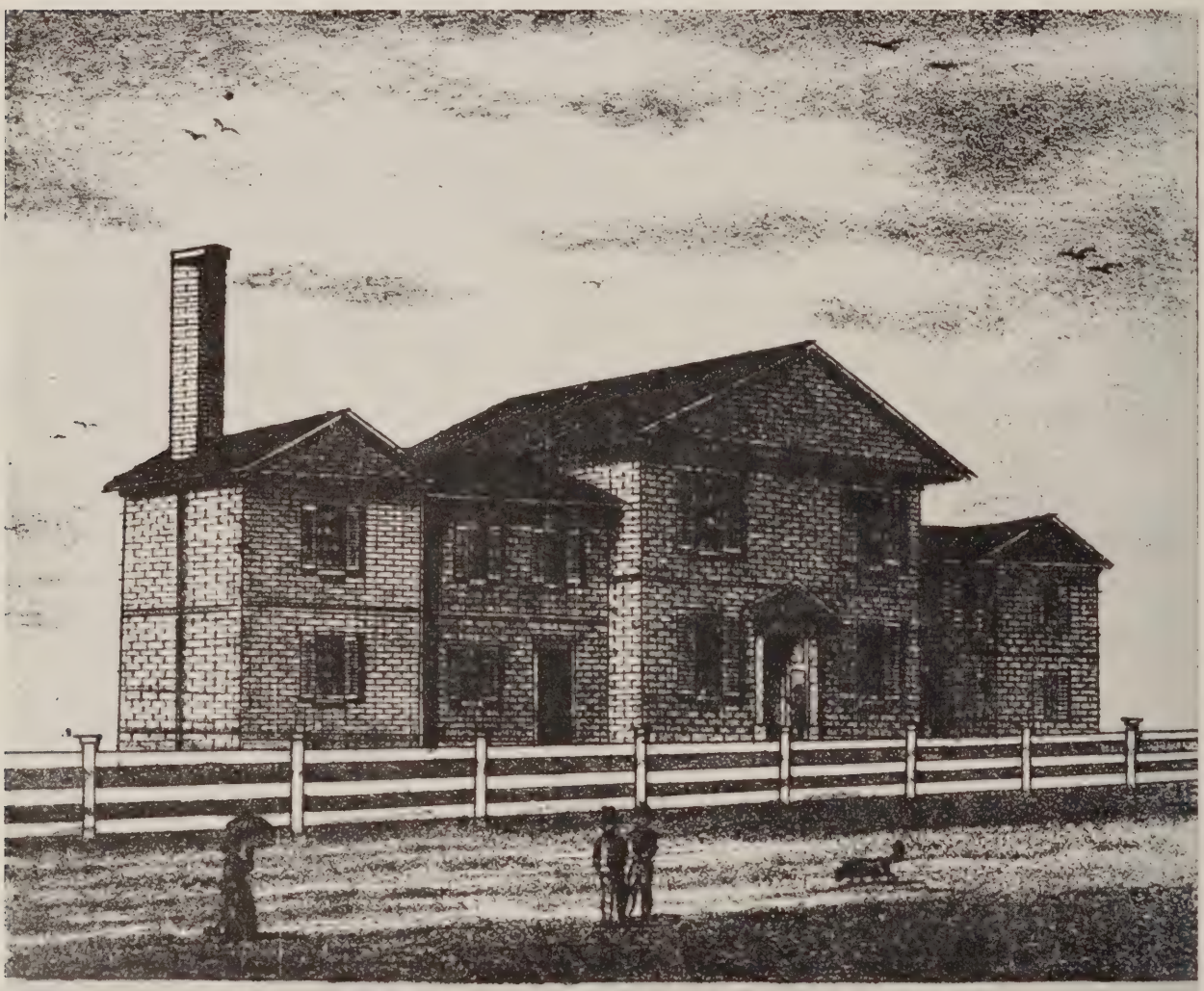
ROADS BOOK, 1885-1901. Record of roads in each election district showing terminal points, distances, grades, types of roadbeds, causeways, ditches, and bridges. Sketches and maps also shown for important roads. C.H.

MINUTES OF THE COUNTY ROADS BOARD, 1956--. Record of proceedings of the County Commissioners sitting as the County Roads Board. C.H.

INDEX OF PLATS, 1790-1937. Brief listing of plats recorded in Land Records and Land Commissions with an index in front. H.R.

DAY BOOK OF GENERAL STORE, BOONSBOROUGH, 1816. H.R.

MEMORANDUMS J. N. BAKER, 1787. H.R.



VIEW OF THE COURT HOUSE AT DENTON.

Caroline County Courthouse of 1797, Denton.

CARROLL COUNTY

Records

No county of Maryland has more complete records than has Carroll County, and only a very few have them equally as full and as well kept. Many factors have combined to accomplish this end. In the first place, the county has been fortunate to have had public servants who realized the value of the records and gave them the interest and care which they deserve.

But without detracting any of the credit from these officers, it must be said that their part would not have been enough. The county has also been especially blessed in having been spared all of the agents which have destroyed or damaged records elsewhere. There has been only one courthouse; there have been no fires, earthquakes, floods or civil disturbances, and no marauding armies.

Note

The architect of the Courthouse Colonel James M. Shellman was a native of Louisville, Georgia who read law in Frederick County and became the first Burgess of Westminster. His day book, which he kept from 1824 to 1850—he died in 1851—is now in the possession of the Carroll County Historical Society. (*News Letter Historical Society Carroll County, Maryland, Inc.* XI, 1., January 1962)

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1837--. Also includes Real Estate Mortgage Records, 1837-59; Indentures, 1837-51; Bond Record, 1837-75. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-1949, microfilm. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1837-1951. Campbell. H.R. 1837-1930. L.O. 1837-1951, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND AND MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1837--. Cottco Universal. C.H.

REAL ESTATE MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1860--. 1837-59 in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1860--. Campbell. C.H. 1860--. H.R. 1860-1913.

PLAT BOOKS, 1837--. C.H.

PLAT INDEX, 1837--. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

CHATTEL RECORDS [CHATTEL AND BOND RECORDS], 1837--. Also includes Bond Records, 1876-1901, Corporation Records, Manumissions, Petitions and Deeds of Trust, Strays, etc. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHATTEL AND BOND INDEX, 1882--. Campbell. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT, 1842--. Also includes Naturalizations, 1842-1904; Election Returns, 1896-1915. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENT DOCKET (CASES INSTITUTED, DOCKET) 1837--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENT RECORD (JUDGMENT INDEX), 1874-1930. Campbell. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1917--. Cottco Universal. C.H.

TRIAL DOCKET, 1894--. Civil cases. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLERKS SPECIAL TRIAL DOCKET, 1866. Docket for special session of circuit court in 1866. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1837--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

STET DOCKET (STET AND DORMANT DOCKET), 1886--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPEAL DOCKETS, 1837--. Appeals from magistrates' courts to the circuit court. Indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

CRIMINAL APPEALS, 1937--. Criminal appeals from magistrates' courts to the circuit court. C.H.

RECOGNIZANCE DOCKET, 1842-67, 1884--. Record of bonds deposited by persons for appearance in circuit court on appeals from magistrates' courts. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORD, 1843--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDICIAL DOCKET, 1842--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1881--. Indexed by names of plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1902--. 1837-75 in Land Records; 1876-1901 in Chattel Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1837--. Also includes Record of Divorce Decrees, 1841-1908. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

RECORD OF DIVORCE DECREES, 1909--. 1841-1908 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY CASES, 1837--. Campbell. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1837--. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

DOCKET OF CONTINUING TRUSTS AND REPORTS, 1936--. Reports of trustees or guardians of trust estates in equity. Indexed by names of decedent and trustee or guardian. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Each volume indexed by names of decedent and trustee. C.H.

RECORD OF INSOLVENT INDENTURES, 1845-91. Record of deeds for lands included in assets of petitioners given to trustees in insolvency proceedings. Indexed by names of petitioner and trustee. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1938--. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATIONS OF INTENTIONS [Naturalization], 1908--. Indexed. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD (RECORD OF NATURALIZATION), 1904, 1912--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1913--. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1837-86. C.H. 1837-86. H.R. 1837-86, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES (MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORD), 1865--. Arranged alphabetically, 1865-95; each volume indexed by name of male and female, 1895--. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES BY BANNS, 1909--. Arranged alphabetically by name of male and indexed by name of female. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-85. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-1902. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTION RETURNS, 1916--. 1896-1915 in Proceedings of Court. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902--. C.H.

DECLARATION OF VOTERS TO RETURN TO STATE [AFFIDAVITS OF TEMPORARY REMOVAL], 1914--. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF QUALIFIED VOTERS, 1865-81, 1911. Arranged alphabetically by name of voter within each election district. C.H.

RECORD OF CIVIL COMMISSIONS, 1837-60, 1877--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOK (RECORD OF QUALIFICATIONS OF CIVIL OFFICERS), 1842--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RETURN OF LUTHER WALSH COMMISSIONER OF SLAVE STATISTICS, 1864. Self-indexed by name of owner. C.H.

RECORD OF SOLDIERS DISCHARGED, 1864-66. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1837--. Include Law Papers, 1842--; Equity Papers, 1837--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-1954, microfilm.

GENERAL FILING INDEX, 1837-1910. Brief record of administration of estates. Continued in Estate Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ESTATE DOCKET, 1909--. For earlier record see General Filing Index. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GENERAL INDEX-ADMINISTRATION, 1837--. Campbell. Index to various proceedings in settlement of estates. C.H.

WILLS, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1837--. Campbell, 1837-1946; Cott, 1946--. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-1950, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-53, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS NOMINAL, 1924--. 1882-1924 in Administration Bonds. Nominal bonds required in estates in which the will specifies no bond. Indexed. C.H.

APPLICATION FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1898--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, 1902--. Record of orders of Orphans' Court appointing executors and administrators. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-52, microfilm.

SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1838--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-51, microfilm.

FINAL ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNT FILING INDEX, 1837-1911. Record of final settlement made by executor or administrator. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CONTINUANCE DOCKET OF ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1839-1917. Record of accounts in administration of estates, giving name of plaintiff and defendant date first account settled, person for whom residue is held, name of holder of residue, accountant and dates of account settlements. In front of first volume is list of administrations on estates of decedents granted by Orphans Court, 1837-57, in which no settlements appear to have been made by executors or administrators. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1837--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-65, microfilm.

GENERAL INDEX GUARDIANSHIPS, 1837--. Index and record of guardianships. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

ORDERS OF COURT APPOINTING GUARDIANS, 1902--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1837--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1837--. H.R. 1837-52, microfilm.

RELEASES, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1837--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOOK OF INDENTURES, 1837-1927. Indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1838-64. Indexed by name of Negro. C.H.

CONTESTED CASES, 1881--. Proceedings in contested cases, name of decedent and heirs, date filed, name of petitioner, nature of contest, name of administrator, answer of administrator date submitted to court and disposition of case. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CITATIONS CONTESTED CASES AND EQUITY DOCKET, 1858--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS, 1837-59. Several small volumes bound together as follows: Citations, 1837-58; Attachment Docket, 1840-55; Index to Attachment Docket, 1840-55; Summonses Issued, 1837-59; Orders, 1837-52; Letters of Administration, 1845-47; Bonds, 1838-58; Index of Orphans Bound Out, 1837-51. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1837--. Includes Wills, Administration Bonds, Inventories, Administration Accounts and miscellaneous other papers relating to the settlement of estates. C.H.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS, 1837--. C.H.

RECORD OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TAX (LEVY LISTS), 1838-57. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS (ASSESSMENT, LEDGER), 1837--. Also contains Cash Disbursements, 1837-52. Some volumes indexed. C.H.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ASSESSED PERSONS, 1837-84. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS, 1841, 1852, 1866, 1876. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RELEASES AND CHARGES (RECORD), 1842-48, 1874-1909, 1933--. Daily notations of transfers of property. C.H.

TAX COLLECTIONS, 1839--. Record of taxes collected. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

CASH DISBURSEMENTS (LEVY), 1873-87, 1897-1901, 1920--. 1837-52 in Assessment Books. C.H.

CASH BOOK, COUNTY TREASURER, 1840--. Record of receipts and disbursements of the county treasurer. C.H.

RECORD BOOK CARROLL COUNTY ROADS, 1840--. C.H.

INDEX ROADS, 1840-1913. Arranged alphabetically by name of road, giving road and district numbers, dimensions of road, date, name of surveyor, volume and page. C.H.

DAY BOOK (ROADS), 1839-44, 1875-98. Record of petitions for opening, closing or building roads. C.H.

ROAD DOCKET, 1875-81. Record of petitions for opening roads. C.H.

CARROLL COUNTY HARD ROADS, 1922-31. Record of county roads. Also contains District Road Ledger, 1926-30. Arranged alphabetically by name of road. C.H.

DISTRICT ROAD LEDGER (ROAD SUPERVISORS), 1860-63, 1882-92, 1904-20. 1926-30 in Carroll County Hard Roads. Record of special assessments for road construction. C.H.

SUPERVISORS OF PUBLIC ROADS, 1837-79. Record of salaries paid road supervisors. Arranged alphabetically by name of supervisors within each district. C.H.

ALMSHOUSE LEDGER, 1852-74. Record of receipts and disbursements of the county almshouse. C.H.

PENSIONS (OUTDOOR PENSIONS), 1837-52, 1881-94, 1907-21, 1929-36. Record of county pensioners. C.H.

COUNTY BOUNTY, 1838-50, 1864-65. Record of bounties paid to residents enlisted in the Military or Naval service of the United States, also to persons furnishing substitutes, 1864-65. C.H.

Cecil County, Placing of Cornerstone of Courthouse, May 11, 1939.

CECIL COUNTY

Records

As the list which follows will indicate, the bound records of Cecil County are unusually well-preserved. The volumes of the Register of Wills and Orphans' Court show few losses and the Land Records in the custody of the Clerk of the Court are almost complete. There are, unfortunately, large gaps in the Judgment Records of the Court for the earlier periods, and the papers for both courts have disappeared almost *in toto*. Not a single page has survived of the records of the Levy Court and the other administrative agencies which governed the county before the period of the Board of County Commissioners.

The record losses sustained by Cecil County have been explained in several fashions. Some have said that the courthouse was burned during the passage of the British troops under Sir William Howe in August 1777, with a consequent heavy loss of records. Joshua Clayton, the orator at the laying of the cornerstone of the present courthouse, averred that the British burned the courthouse at that time but that the records were carried away. However, he seemed to think that the records were not returned, for he finds consolation for their loss in the fact that the rent rolls at the Land Office in Annapolis have substituted for the missing books. Finally, there is the more acceptable theory that the courthouse was not burned at all but that the British carried the records away. As evidence of this theory we have an Act of Assembly which this writer is willing to accept as proof beyond reasonable doubt:

> WHEREAS it is represented to this general assembly, that in the year seventeen hundred and seventy-seven the British army took possession of the record books and other papers belonging to Caecil county court, and carried the same to New York; that on the restoration of peace, part of the said records were returned, much abused and defaced, and sundry volumes were entirely lost, to the great injury and prejudice of the inhabitants of the said county; therefore,
>
> Be it enacted, by the General Assembly of Maryland, That the justices of Caecil county court shall and they are authorised and required to cause all such of the record books and papers, of Caecil county court, as have been defaced or otherwise injured, to be transcribed into new record books by the clerk of the said county; and the record so transcribed shall be as good in law, to all intents and purposes, as the original records from which they were transcribed.[1]

Scisco, while noting the transcripts, was not aware of the reason for their state of dilapidation; he notes simply that "Joseph Baxter was clerk from 1790 to 1805. He probably found the accumulated record volumes somewhat the worse for wear, for he carried on a systematic transcription of all the older records. Of the 14 volumes of colonial deed records now on the record office shelves 13 are Baxter's transcripts. The original books, mostly in bad condition or worse, are among the discarded material in the storage rooms."[2]

All of the transcriptions made under authority of this act involving some postdating the Revolution, are now at the Hall of Records, as are all of the older volumes which were carried to New York.

Why General Howe and his lieutenant, Tarleton, should have carried off the records remains a mystery. Neither one of these commanders ever burned a courthouse elsewhere or

[1] Ch. XLVIII, Acts of 1790.
[2] Louis Dow Scisco, "Colonial Records of Cecil County," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXIII, pp. 20-26.

carried away public records. The landing in Cecil County was made after a fearful period of thirty days at sea and the loss of half the army's horses. Who would have thought of devoting even one cart and two horses to the hauling of Cecil County land records to Philadelphia? Again, why were they subsequently removed from Philadelphia to New York and how were they recovered?[3]

When Judge Clayton made his dedicatory address he was misinformed about the losses of Land Records, for there are only insignificant gaps. But subsequent to his speech, when the time came for transferring records to the new courthouse, great losses of the older materials were suffered. It is possible to know this because the inventory made by the Historical Records Survey of the WPA a few years earlier still exists in manuscript at the Hall of Records. The discrepancies between what is listed there and what is now extant is dismaying.

As in the case of St. Mary's, Charles and some other counties, it is possible that Cecil County records, or at least some part of them, have been dispersed rather than lost. On March 11, 1963, as this book was being readied for the press, we received two volumes from Mr. J. N. Ewing of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. One volume was an original *Land Record, Liber F.L. No. 13 August 9, 1748-June 8, 1753.* This volume has antiquarian value only because we already had a transcript. But this is not true in the case of the *Judgment Record for 1733-1741* of which no other copy is known. It may be hoped that other finds of this kind will occur from time to time.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1674-80, 1698-1726, 1732-45, 1748-62, 1764--. 1693, 1696 in Judgments, 1709-17. Also contains Judgments, 1769. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1674--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1674-1792; 1674-1949, microfilm.

LAND RECORDS [Originals that have been transcribed], 1674-79, 1702-09, 1716-23, 1732-45, 1748-62, 1764-74, 1799-85. 1713-16 in Judgments, 1800; 1723-26 in Judgments, 1717-18. H.R.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1674-1810, 1838-50. Liber index. H.R.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1674--. Campbell, 1674-1918. Cottco Universal, 1918--. C.H. 1674--. L.O. 1850-1948, microfilm. H.R. 1674-1956, microfilm. 1850-97.

CHARLESTOWN DEEDS, 1742-1920. C.H. 1742-1920. H.R. 1742-1920, microfilm.

LAND COMMISSIONS (LAND DIVISION RECORD BOOK, DOCKET), 1724-75, 1781-1875 includes Commissions to Divide Estates, 1799-1875. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1803-75. H.R. 1724-1803.

TAX SALE RECORDS, 1904--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TAX SALE DOCKET, 1935--. C.H.

PETITION AND CONDEMNATION, 1924-39. Proceedings in condemnation of land for roads. Indexed. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, 1922--. See also Land Records. C.H.

[3] Mr. Ira D. Gruber, Fellow of the Institute of Early American History and Culture, and specialist in Admiral Richard Howe has this interesting explanation of this act of his brother Sir William Howe:

Though I did not know that Sir William had taken the Cecil County land records with him to Philadelphia, I think I can provide a plausible—if not a well-documented—explanation. Cecil County was, according to Joseph Galloway's testimony (Parliamentary Register XIII, 434), notoriously disloyal; hence the few Loyalists of Cecil County probably persuaded Sir William to take the land records with him for safekeeping so that the rebels could not destroy the Loyalists' claims to land in Cecil County. Sir William may have obliged in hopes of showing the Loyalists the good intentions of the British government. He was certainly capable of sacrificing military operations to political objectives.

Please remember that this explanation is simply an amateur's guess. . . . (Letter to the writer Nov. 26, 1962)

PLAT BOOKS STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

MINUTE BOOKS, 1770-73, 1777-89, 1791--. C.H. 1855--. H.R. 1770-1854.

JUDGMENTS, 1683-1700, 1709-32, 1736-43, 1746-47, 1759-62, 1769, 1771-74, 1790-92, 1806-44. Also includes Probate Proceedings, 1690-92; Land Records, 1693, 1696, 1713-16, 1723-26; Resurveys of Land, 1704-09; Clerks Cash Book, 1695-1702. H.R.

JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1873--. C.H.

GENERAL JUDGMENT INDEX, DEFENDANTS, 1874--. C.H.

DOCKETS, 1750, 1752-54, 1759, 1763, 1767-74, 1784--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1857--. H.R. 1750-1856.

MINUTES OF COURT AND RECORD ENTRIES (RECORDS, MINUTE BOOK), 1818-27. Docket of cases settled and court minutes. H.R.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS, 1733-41. H.R.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS, 1792, 1807, 1814, 1816--. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1792-1850.

INDEX TO CRIMINAL RECORDS, 1850--. Indexed by name of defendant. Also gives nature of crime, term of court year and disposition of case. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORDS, 1820--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1870--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

APPEAL DOCKET, 1896--. Appeals from Magistrates Court. C.H.

PETITIONS DOCKET [MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET], 1887--. C.H.

LAW AND TRUSTEES BONDS, 1904--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ATTORNEYS ASSIGNEES AND MORTGAGE BONDS, 1904--. 1852-1904 in Equity Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF EQUITY PROCEEDINGS, 1852--. Each volume indexed, 1852-1904. C.H.

RECORD OF DECREES IN DIVORCE CASES, 1908--. 1853-1907 in Record of Equity Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKETS, 1820--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY RECORDS, 1820--. C.H.

RECORD OF DECREES IN ADOPTION, 1928--. Indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RELEASES, 1874--. Releases of trustees in chancery proceedings. Indexed. C.H.

INCORPORATION OF CHURCHES (CHURCH RECORDS), 1803--. C.H. 1860--. H.R. 1803-96, scattered dates.

CORPORATION RECORDS (CHARTER RECORD), 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORDS, 1860-1903. Earlier record in Minute Books. C.H.

NATURALIZATIONS, 1903-05. Adults and minors in separate volumes. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1907--. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD [Naturalization], 1907--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1777-1886. H.R.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886-1938. Combined Campbell index and record. C.H.

MARRIAGE INDEX, 1928--. Combined Cottco Universal index and record. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

ELECTIONS, 1896--. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902-49. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

COMMISSION RECORDS, 1876--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1864--. C.H.

BONDS, 1896--. Bonds of county officers. C.H.

INQUISITIONS (Coroner) 1895--. Indexed by name of deceased. C.H.

BOOK OF PARDONS, 1902--. Record of pardons issued by Governor. Indexed. C.H.

OATHS OF FIDELITY, 1778. Record of oaths of fidelity to the State required of all free males over 18 years of age under Chapter 20, Acts of October 1777. H.R. has card index. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1820--. Include Law Papers, 1846--. Equity Papers, 1820--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS (MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS), 1798--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1798--. H.R. 1798-1955, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION AND GUARDIAN DOCKETS, 1844-75. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1844--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1675--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1795--. H.R. 1675-1794; 1675-1961, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1675--. Campbell. C.H. 1675--. H.R. 1675-1953; 1675-1950, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATORS AND EXECUTORS BONDS (ADMINISTRATION AND GUARDIAN BONDS), 1674--. Includes Guardian Bonds, 1797-1886. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1794--. H.R. 1674-1794; 1802-59, microfilm.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATORS AND EXECUTORS BONDS, 1674-1953. Campbell. H.R.

INVENTORIES, 1675--. 1697, 1703, 1708, 1731-34 in Accounts. Most volumes indexed. H.R. has card index, 1675-1790. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1675-1790; 1675-1850, microfilm.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES, LIST OF SALES AND DEBTS, 1675--. Liber index. C.H.

ACCOUNTS (ADMINISTRATION AND GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS, ADMINISTRATION GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS DISTRIBUTION AND RELEASES), 1678--. Includes Guardian Accounts and Distributions, 1814--; Releases, 1846-82; Inventories, 1697, 1703, 1708, 1731-34. Most volumes indexed. H.R. has card index, 1675-1790. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1678-1790; 1780-1854, microfilm.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION AND GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS, 1678--. Liber index. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778-97, 1886--. 1797-1886 in Administration and Guardian Bonds. Also includes Valuations, 1784-97; Indentures, 1785-86; Guardian Accounts, 1787-97. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1886--. H.R. 1778-97.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN BONDS, 1783--. Campbell. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1863--. Most volumes indexed by name of ward. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET (RECORD OF CLAIMS), 1866--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RELEASES, 1872--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1867--. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1866--. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1794-1894. 1785-86 in Guardian Bonds. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

INDEX TO INDENTURES, 1794-1894. Liber index. Indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1674--. Comprised of following items:
Wills. C.H. 1699--. H.R. 1699-1763 (scattered dates).
Bonds. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1674-1789.
Inventories. C.H. 1795--. H.R. 1675-1795 with card index for 1675-1790.
Accounts. C.H. 1796--. H.R. 1678-1796 with card index for 1678-1791.
Indentures. H.R. 1785-1800.
Valuation of Lands. H.R. 1785-92, 1799.
Guardian Accounts. H.R. 1790, 1796-99.
Commissions to Justices of the Orphans' Court, 1785-1839.

County Commissioners

MINUTES OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1832-34, 1856-84, 1895--. C.H.

ASSESSMENTS, 1782, 1786, 1789-91, 1793, 1795-1909, 1918--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

ASSESSMENT OF SLAVES, 1852-64. C.H.

ROAD RECORDS, 1792-1893. C.H.

LIST OF COUNTY PENSIONERS, SOLDIERS, 1862-63. Record of bounties paid to Civil War soldiers. C.H.

BOHEMIA BRIDGE TOLLS, 1872-83. C.H.

RECORDS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES INSPECTOR, 1866-73. C.H.

MAP OF DIVISION LINE BETWEEN HARFORD AND CECIL COUNTIES, 1829. Drawn by James Steele. C.H.

Charles County, Ruins of Courthouse of 1819, Portobacco.

CHARLES COUNTY

Records

The first loss of records in Charles County of which we are aware occurred December 16, 1746, when the home of the clerk, Edmund Porteus, burned. At that time he had in the house the proceedings of the court for the June, August and November terms of that year as well as many original papers; and these all went up in flames. The General Assembly, after taking measures for the reconstitution of the lost records, forbade any recordkeeping officer of the province to remove any of the records of his office from their proper place during the hours from eleven at night until six in the morning.[1] Unfortunately, this law was more honored in the breach than in the observance.

When the courthouse burned in 1892, several favorable circumstances conspired to save many of the important records. According to the accepted story, there were people in the courthouse (it is reliably reported that they were engaged in a poker game) when the fire broke out, and they and others in Portobacco set about carrying out the records. Moreover, the bound records for the period 1662-1786 and a volume of extracts of deeds from 1785 to 1803 were at that time in the office of the Land Commissioner at Annapolis, having been sent there by an order of the Charles County Court of May 21, 1889.[2] They were formally made a part of the records of the State by a Joint Resolution of 1896,[3] but eighteen years later they were reclaimed by Charles County.[4] What is important, however, is that they were in Annapolis out of reach of the disaster of August 1892.

One other volume escaped in a different way. Liber A, containing the court records from 1658 to 1662, was deposited at the Maryland Historical Society, September 13, 1886, by Vivian Brent, an attorney of Charles County. It remained in the custody of the society until 1926, when it was returned to La Plata.[5] How Mr. Brent came into possession of this volume is a matter for speculation, but it is certain that his act, however motivated, effectively insulated this volume from the fire.

There were also two other losses, both minor, which were repaired after an uncertain period of time. At one point, two pages, folios 277 and 278, were removed from Liber V No. 1. These pages contained a plat and description of the public land of Portobacco, made in 1697, which have proved to be extremely useful. It is probable that these pages were never actually removed from the courthouse for they were found filed among the papers of his office by the present clerk of the court, Honorable Patrick C. Mudd. The original pages have been repaired and laminated and remain in the county, a photostatic copy has been inserted in the original record volume which had already been transfererd to the Hall of Records when the missing pages were discovered.

In July of 1947, the Librarian of the Duluth, Minnesota, Public Library sent to the Archivist of Maryland some scraps of old paper which when assembled proved to be pages 497 and 498 of *Liber D No. 3* of the Court Records of Charles County. These scraps were said to have been picked up during the burning of the Confederate Capital at Richmond, Virginia in

[1] Ch. III, Acts of 1747.

[2] *Report of the Commissioner of the Land Office of Maryland October 1, 1893, to September 30, 1895*, p. 19.

[3] Acts of 1896, Joint Resolution No. 9.

[4] Ch. 59, Acts of 1914.

[5] Bernard C. Steiner, "The Beginnings of Charles County," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXI, pp. 270-273.

April 1865. It is impossible to explain now how they got to Richmond, but if they were taken by some soldier who wanted them to pad his coat, stanch his wounds or clean his gun, this same soldier may have been responsible for the other losses in this volume, including the first sixty-six pages.[6] Perhaps they may turn up as did those two pages, but it is more than likely that they were lost with Richmond.

While the bound series of the register of wills and clerk of the court have come down to us with little loss, the same cannot be said for the loose papers which were for the most part burned in 1892. The other records of the county, administrative and fiscal, which must have been in the courthouse at the time of the fire, appear also to have been a total loss.

Note

Dr. Henry Chandlee Forman, in a searching review of the first volume of this work (*Md. Hist. Mag.*, LV, pp. 246-248) has contributed some especially valuable comment on Charles County. He is perfectly correct in pointing out that the courthouse of 1675 which is shown on p. 62 was clapboard and not brick. He pointed out also that I had stated it was clapboard on p. 67. There is no satisfactory explanation for an error of this kind. It was an early commission to the artist and it was not properly checked when the book went to press three or four years later. Dr. Forman also points out that the leaning chimney could not stand without defying gravity. This is true but all that was intended was an enlargement of the sketch in the surveyor's plat given on p. 64. Perhaps this should have been made clear.

Circuit Court

LAND AND COURT RECORDS, 1658-1786. Missing: Land Records, 1699-1702; Court Records, 1695, 1716, 1740, 1751, discontinued after 1780. Volumes dated 1658-98, 1710-13 contain both Land and Court Records; otherwise records are entered in separate volumes, but numbered as a single series. Also includes Probate Records, 1689-92; Vital Records, 1654-1706; Attachments, Writs, Orders, etc., 1687; Land Commissions, 1716-21; Laws in Force in 1677 and 1688 and Laws Passed in 1692. C.H. 1658-1786 (does not include Court Records, 1696-1710, 1711-80). H.R. 1658-1786; 1658-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO COURT AND LAND RECORDS, 1658-1722. Liber index. H.R.

LAND RECORDS, 1786-1810, 1813--. Original volumes for 1810-13, which are missing, have been replaced by photocopies of the abstracts of the land records contained in these volumes. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1786--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1786-90; 1786-1949, microfilm.

ABSTRACTS OF LAND RECORDS, 1810-14. Photocopies of abstracts of land records in Liber I.B. No. 9 and Liber I.B. No. 10. The original volumes are missing from the Land Records. C.H.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1658-1937. Campbell. C.H. 1658-1937. L.O. 1658-1937, microfilm. H.R. 1658-1832; 1658-1937, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1935--. Cottco Universal. Grantors and grantees in separate volumes. C.H. 1935--. L.O. 1935-48.

MORTGAGE RECORD, 1943--. Earlier mortgages in Land Records. Each volume indexed, 1943-56. C.H.

LAND COMMISSION RECORDS, 1838-85. Each volume indexed. C.H.

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[6] Louis Dow Scisco, "Colonial Records of Charles County," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXI, pp. 261-270.

COMMISSION DOCKET [COMMISSIONS TO DIVIDE ESTATES], 1844-1903. Indexed. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, 1933--. Earlier plats in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PLAT RECORDS, 1933--. Projection prints of original plats in Plat Books. C.H.

PLAT RECORD [STATE ROADS COMMISSION], 1933--. Indexed. C.H.

TAX SALES RECORD, 1903--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORD, 1790--. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1846--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CLERKS DOCKETS, 1864--. Also includes Court Minutes. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1897--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORDS, 1922--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1901--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY RECORDS (RECORD OF EQUITY PROCEEDINGS, COURT PROCEEDINGS), 1796--. Each volume indexed by name of complainant. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Earlier divorces in Equity Records. Each volume indexed by name of complainant and respondent. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKETS (CHANCERY DOCKETS), 1811--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1879-85. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1844-98. Indexed. C.H.

DIVISION OF NATURALIZATION, RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION, 1908-29. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1911-29. C.H.

INCORPORATION RECORDS (INCORPORATIONS, CORPORATION DOCKET), 1877--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886-1935. Combined Campbell index and record. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1936--. Applications and Clerk's certificates of ministers' returns. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF PUBLICATION OF BANNS [of Marriage], 1905-41. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1916--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-70. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-66. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1897--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902-49. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF CLAIMS (AFFIDAVITS OF TEMPORARY REMOVAL), 1890-1929. Indexed. C.H.

Entrance to Charles County Courthouse of 1819.

REGISTRATION BOOKS, 1914--. Each volume indexed by name of voter within each election district. C.H.

TEST BOOKS, 1904--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TOBACCO INSPECTION RECORDS, 1748-54, 1756-69, 1774-86. Also contains Proceedings of Special Court of Oyer, Terminer and Goal Delivery, June 1755. Each volume indexed, 1748-54, 1774-86. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1844--. Include Law Papers, 1867--; Equity Papers, 1844--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

TESTAMENTARY PROCEEDINGS, 1716-19, 1760-66. Minutes of the actions taken by the Deputy Commissary for Charles County comparable to the Orphans Court Proceedings. Also contains Wills and Administration Accounts, which have been copied in Wills and in Accounts respectively. Each volume indexed. H.R. has card index. H.R.

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1791--. 1777-91 in Wills. Also includes Accounts, 1908-37. Each volume indexed. H.R. has card index, 1777-91. C.H. 1827--. H.R. 1791-1827; 1791-1951, microfilm.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKETS (TERM DOCKETS), 1897--. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1825-1902. See also Estate Docket. Indexed. C.H.

ESTATE DOCKET, 1908--. See also Administration Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1665--. Also includes Testamentary Proceedings, 1716-19, 1760-66; Orphans Court Proceedings, 1777-91; Inventories, 1777-91, 1825; Administration Accounts, 1673-1720, 1760-66, 1777-91, 1825. Most volumes indexed. H.R. has card index, 1665-1825. C.H. 1825--. H.R. 1665-1825; 1665-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1665--. Liber index. C.H. 1665--. H.R. 1665-1948, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1833--. 1797-1825 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1673--. 1777-91, 1825 in Wills; 1869-1924, 1933-37 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Also includes Accounts, 1807-24. Inventories of personal and real property recorded in separate volumes beginning in 1946. Each volume indexed. H.R. has card index, 1673-1824. C.H. 1825--. H.R. 1673-1824; 1673-1951, microfilm.

ACCOUNT OF SALES, 1827--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1673--. 1673-1720, 1777-91, 1825 in Wills; 1807-24 in Inventories; 1908-37 in Orphans Court Proceedings. H.R. has card index, 1673-1825. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1825--. H.R. 1673-1806; 1673-1955, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778-1825, 1833--. 1778-91 in Wills; 1791-1825 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1788-1823, 1825--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. H.R. has card index, 1788-1823. C.H. 1825--. H.R. 1788-1823, 1788-1823, microfilm.

GUARDIAN DOCKETS, 1792-1890. C.H. 1825-90. H.R. 1792-1824.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1827--. Earlier record in Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIM REGISTER, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPRENTICES (INDENTURES), 1915-27. Indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

MANUMISSIONS, 1826-60. Also includes Rough Minutes of Orphans Court, 1875-87. Indexed. C.H.

PRIVATE ACCOUNT BOOKS. The following records were apparently filed as exhibits in the settlement of estates: Account Book, Orme and Lloyd, Port Tobacco, 1830-34. H.R. Ledger of J. T. Mudd, 1872-75. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1799--. Comprised of following items:

Testamentary Papers, includes wills, inventories, accounts, bonds and other probate papers. C.H. 1900--. H.R. 1799-1925.

Wills, 1908--. C.H.

Guardian Accounts and Bonds, 1909--. C.H.

Receipts and Releases, 1911-28. C.H.

School Reports, 1833-55. C.H.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS, 1894--. Earlier records destroyed by fire. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1923--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

ASSESSORS FIELD CARDS, 1957--. Give more detail about property than Assessment Books. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1892--. C.H .

SUPPLEMENT TO ASSESSMENT VOLUMES, 1936. Covers small area in 5th election district called "Cobb Island," a summer development. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

ROAD MAPS, PETITIONS AND REPORTS OF ENGINEER [ROAD RECORDS], 1896--. C.H.

DORCHESTER COUNTY

Records

Some of the early Proceedings of the Court have been lost. Some others may have been badly kept from the beginning as witness a report to the General Assembly of "The Committee of Aggreivances and Courts of Justice" of April 5, 1736:

"That by the Return of the Justices from Dorchester County in the Clerkship of Hugh Eccleston and of Govert Loockerman from the years 1716-1720 the proceedings are very Irregularly and Imperfectly Entered."[1]

After this period there are large gaps until the middle of the eighteenth century and there are smaller gaps thereafter. On the other hand, the deed records seem to be intact. Almost all of the loose papers in the clerk's office have disappeared, but a small number have recently been retrieved from the attic where they were seen by Scisco.[2] It is fair to assume that the major part of them were burned in the fire of 1852.

The proceedings of the justices sitting as an administrative body have also disappeared as have the records of the Commissioners of the Tax and the Levy Court. None of the records that the Board of County Commissioners had created before 1852 survived the fire. With the exception of two current minute books which happened to be at the home of the Deputy Register of Wills, nothing from the Orphans' Court survived. In response to the call for the rerecording of instruments issued immediately after the fire, and despite successive acts of Assembly which extended the rerecording period to 1860, there was little response.[3] Only a few wills were brought in and none of these seems to be earlier than 1823. The exact number and the dates of these rerecordings is difficult to determine because contrary to the usual procedure under such circumstances, no separate book was dedicated to this purpose. The Register of Wills simply copied such instruments at the place in his books where he happened to be recording current business. The reader is cautioned that while there is no way to substitute for the lost court records it is possible to fill part of the gap in the probate records through use of the records of the Secretary and the Prerogative Court at the Hall of Records and the single volume of Wills taken from the Dorchester County files for the use of Caroline County. This last-named record is found in the courthouse at Denton as well as at the Hall of Records.

Note

The architect for the 1931 courthouse work has advised me that his name is improperly inscribed on the vestibule plaque which was copied faithfully in my first volume: the name should be William F. Stone, Jr. and not William A. Stone, Jr. He also noted that he persuaded the Commission not to change from Italianate to Georgian style, that he added the quoins and did the interior remodeling which proved to be an almost total undertaking. (Letter of William F. Stone, Jr. to the writer, March 1960)

The December 11, 1673 session of Dorchester County Court in which Elias Jones found the information about the courthouse at Harwood's Chance is not lost as I stated (Vol. I, p.

[1] *Arch. of Md.*, XXXIX, 394-5.

[2] Louis Dow Scisco, "Colonial Records of Dorchester County," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXIII, 243-46.

[3] Acts 1852, Ch. 316; 1854, Ch. 46; 1856, Ch. 103 and 1858, Ch. 114.

WOOLFORD'S COLONIAL HOME, BROOKS' CREEK.

Dorchester County, First Courthouse and Jail.

73, fn. 4) but is found intermingled with the land records. (Dorchester County Land Records Old No. 1, pp. 167-68.) This valuable reference was provided by Hon. James A. McAllister, Jr., Deputy Register of Wills of Dorchester County.

Dr. Forman in the review of the first volume of this work cited above has this to say about the first courthouse: "In respect to the first courthouse in Dorchester County, this source declares that at this late date positive identification is difficult and that it is more likely that the court building is the structure on 'John's Point.' Nothing is mentioned of the identification twenty-six years ago that 'John's Point' and the first Dorchester courthouse were one and the same. . . ." The identification was made in Dr. Forman's splendid work *Early Manor and Plantation Homes of Maryland,* (Easton, Md. and Haverford, Pa., 1934, p. 161). There Dr. Forman states, "It was the first courthouse and jail in the county. . . ." He then describes its appearance and on pages 166 and 167 he has provided drawings based on the evidence of the foundation and two photographs. The writer did not say that the identification of the buildings is wrong nor does he say so now; he would feel more comfortable though about the conclusion were there some documentary evidence. Jones (*op. cit.,* p. 160) says that, "The Woolfords claimed that the first County Court was held there, and that it was also used as a jail, evidently before the county seat was removed to Cambridge, in 1687." But Jones only considers it a probability. What Forman has done is to prove beyond a doubt that John's Point is the same building previously designated by Swepson Earle as the first courthouse and jail of Dorchester County. Can it be certain that Swepson Earle was correct?

It has now been ascertained that the first courthouse in Cambridge was razed soon after April 2, 1772 and that court met at the home of John Rider Nevitt until the new courthouse was finished (Dorchester County Land Records Old No. 25, ff. 327-329).

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1669--. Liber 4½ also includes Court Proceedings, 1690-92, and Probate Proceedings, 1690-92. Libers 11-13 also include Court Proceedings, 1742-45. Liber J.C.H. No. 1 also includes Court Proceedings, 1781. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1875--; 1669-1875, microfilm; L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1669-1875.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1669--. Vowel index. Grantors and grantees in separate volumes. C.H. 1669--. L.O. 1669-1887, microfilm. H.R. 1669-1818; 1669-1887, microfilm.

MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1892--. Earlier mortgages in Land Records. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1892--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

INDEX TO MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1912--. Earlier mortgages indexed in Index to Land Records. C.H.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1716-21, 1820-78. Also includes Tobacco Inspection Records, 1748-68. Each volume indexed, 1820-78. H.R.

TAX SALES, 1911--. Indexed by name of delinquent taxpayer. C.H.

PLAT RECORDS, 1909--. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

ESTABLISHMENT OF VIENNA TOWN, 1706-10. Record of proceedings of commissioners to lay out ports and towns in Dorchester County. H.R.

PLAT AND CERTIFICATE OF CAMBRIDGE TOWN, 1799. H.R.

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS, 1785--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1848--. H.R. 1785-1847.

COURT PROCEEDINGS (JUDGMENTS), 1728-29, 1733-34, 1754-55, 1772-74, 1781, 1783, 1785, 1788-1849. 1690-92, 1742-45, 1781 in Land Records. Also includes Judicial Record, 1852-73. Most volumes indexed. H.R.

SHORT JUDGMENTS, 1818-27, 1846-55. Indexed, 1818-27. H.R.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1901--. Cott Key. C.H.

DOCKETS, 1785-1820, 1851--. Some terms missing. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1788--. H.R. 1785-87.

SUPERSEDEAS DOCKET, 1798-1846. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1876--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1878-87, 1899--. Earlier bonds in Land Records. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1811--. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Earlier decrees in Chancery Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1821--. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY DOCKETS, 1821--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1898-1926. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1931-51. Since 1952, persons applying for naturalization have been referred to the Wicomico County Circuit Court. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD [Naturalization], 1932-52. C.H.

ORDERS [Naturalization], 1932-53. C.H.

CORPORATION RECORDS, 1858--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORDS, 1780-1841, 1851--. C.H. 1886--. H.R. 1780-1886 with card index.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1864-67. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS, 1839-65, 1880-1904, 1947--. C.H.

TEST BOOKS, 1889-1934. C.H.

ROBERT BELLS'S BOOK (SLAVE STATISTICS), 1867. Arranged alphabetically by name of owner within election districts. C.H.

SUBPOENA DOCKET, 1816-29, 1900--. C.H.

MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1873-99. Brief record of proceedings in judgments for fire losses against policyholders of Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Dorchester County. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JURY BOOK, 1860--. Lists of grand and petit jurors. C.H.

ROBERT MORRIS LEDGER B, 1742-50. Ledger of a general store in Oxford kept by Robert Morris, father of the famous Revolutionary financier of the same name. Also includes Fee Book, 1762-63. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1855. Include Law Papers, 1855--; Equity Papers, 1822--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1845--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1845--. H.R. 1845-1952, microfilm.

APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1865-1902. C.H.

TRIAL DOCKET, 1865-1909. 1910-- in Orphans Court Proceedings. Brief record of trials in Orphans Court. C.H.

KEY TO ADMINISTRATION, 1852--. Indexed. C.H.

PETITIONS [AND ORDERS], 1909--. Earlier records in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1852--. 1777-1851 destroyed in Courthouse fire of 1852, but some copies of wills dating back to 1771 have been re-recorded under the provisions of Chapter 316, Acts of 1852. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1852--, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1852--. Vowel index. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1852-1955, microfilm.

BONDS (ADMINISTRATION AND GUARDIAN BONDS), 1852--. Each volume indexed by name of deceased or ward. C.H.

INDEX TO BONDS, ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, DISTRIBUTION, DIVIDENDS, GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS AND RECEIPTS AND RELEASES PETITIONS, 1852--. Indexed by name of deceased or guardian. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR LETTERS TESTAMENTARY OR ADMINISTRATION, 1910--. Earlier record in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1857--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS (ADMINISTRATION AND DISTRIBUTION), 1852--. Includes Distributions, 1929--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DISTRIBUTIONS, 1852-1929. 1929-- in Administration Accounts. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1852--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1852--. Each volume indexed by name of deceased or guardian. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1852--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS (REPORTS OF SALES OF REAL ESTATE), 1864--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE DOCKET, 1865--. Indexed. C.H.

VALUATION DIVISIONS, INDENTURES AND AWARDS, 1852-1936. Each volume indexed by names of deceased or apprentice. C.H.

DIVIDENDS, 1852-1923. Record of distribution of amount remaining after settlement of preferred claims in insolvent estates. Indexed. C.H.

COMMISSION RECORD, 1852-72. Record of all matters and proceedings before Daniel M. Henry, Commissioner, in taking testimony and filing of exhibits to restore records that were destroyed by fire May 9, 1852. Contains copies of wills, inventories, lists of debts and depositions relating to bonds of executors, administrators and guardians and agreements of masters in indentures. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SOLDIERS DISCHARGE RECORD WORLD WAR, 1918--. Unofficial record, compiled by R. P. Smith of Dorchester County, of honorary discharge certificates of soldiers. Also includes discharges from other services and record of deaths in service. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1838--. C.H. Comprised of following items:

Wills, 1852--.

Administration Bonds, 1838--.

Inventories, 1853--.

Administration Accounts, 1852--.

Distributions, 1852--.

Guardian Bonds, 1852--.

Guardian Accounts, 1852--.

Cases Finished and Recorded, 1852--.

Chancery Records, 1865--.

Receipts and Releases, Petitions, Valuations, Indentures, etc., 1852--.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1852--. C.H. 1913--. H.R. 1852-1913.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND REVIEW, 1911. H.R.

ASSESSMENTS, 1852. Districts 2 and 3 only. H.R.

ASSESSMENT DOCKETS [ASSESSMENT BOOKS], 1850--. Records prior to 1850 destroyed by fire. C.H.

ROAD RECORD (ROAD DOCKET), 1852-1918. H.R.

PLAT OF CAMBRIDGE, 1853. Includes sketch of Courthouse. H.R.

RECORD OF TAX PAYMENTS, 1878-83, 1900-06, 1908-17. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

FREDERICK COUNTY

Records

In spite of the fact that there have been two major fires in the courthouse—that of May 8, 1861 destroyed the building—none of the major record series seems to be incomplete. Scisco, who examined the early records with great care concurs in this opinion.[1] Certain records which Scisco found in the second floor storage room in relative disorder and inaccessible to searchers (because the stair passage was through the ladies' room) have now been organized properly. Fortunately, the city fathers of Frederick acceded to the demands of the Conferedate army then in possession of the city and paid the ransom of $200,000 demanded on pain of destruction of the town. Had they refused the records up to that date, July 9, 1864, would surely have gone up in flame.

Note

No description of the earliest courthouse of Frederick County has been found. However, S. Somervell Mackall in his *Early Days of Washington, D. C.* (p. 126) prints the drawing of a small building of its period which is herewith reproduced. There is no proof, documentary or otherwise, but it is a possibility which cannot be overlooked.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1748--. Includes Mortgages until 1897. Liber W also includes Court Minutes, November Term 1771. C.H. 1748--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1748-89; 1748-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1748-1915. Campbell. C.H. 1748-1915. L.O. 1748-1867, microfilm. H.R. 1748-1803, 1845-1915; 1748-1867, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1867--. Cottco Universal. C.H. 1867--. L.O. 1867-1960, microfilm. H.R. 1867-1959, microfilm.

RELEASES AND ASSIGNMENTS [OF MORTGAGES AND BILLS OF SALE], 1903--. Each volume indexed by name of grantor. C.H.

DESCENT RECORD [COMMISSION TO DIVIDE ESTATES], 1795-1836. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, 1909--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

COURT MINUTES (MINUTE BOOKS), 1750-86, 1788, 1795, 1797-98, 1801, 1807-14, 1816-21, 1828-32, 1835-41, 1856-61, 1867-85, 1891-94, 1897-1900, 1906-09, 1919-20, 1925-26, 1934--. In early volumes a list of persons naturalized appears at end of each term of court. C.H. 1937--. H.R. 1750-1936.

JUDGMENTS, 1748-71, 1780-83, 1787-88, 1801-08, 1815-22, 1827--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1763-66; 1851--. H.R. 1748-1851 (1763-66 on microfilm).

[1] "Colonial Records of Frederick County," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXV, 206-208.

THE OLD COURT HOUSE IN FREDERICK COUNTY, MARYLAND

Frederick County, First Courthouse.

DOCKETS, 1748-84, 1786-88, 1791-94, 1797--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1748-1850.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS (CRIMINALS AND APPEALS), 1830-31, 1833-36, 1838, 1888--. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1866--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TRANSCRIPT JUDGMENTS, 1818-23, 1846-63. Short entries of judgments. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. H.R.

JUDICIAL DOCKET, 1813-15. H.R.

LAND RECORD, JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS, 1868--. Record of proceedings in the sale of land in judicials. Also contains Tax Sales. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

REFERENCE DOCKET, 1786-1809. Indexed by name of plaintiff. H.R.

SPECIAL COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER, 1781. Record of proceedings in Special Court of Oyer and Terminer and Goal Delivery. H.R.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1869--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

RECORD WARRANT SUPERSEDEAS (SUPERSEDEAS SUPPLEMENT), 1819-21. Stays of execution under provisions of Chapter 162, Acts of 1819. H.R.

SUPERSEDEAS DOCKET, 1820-1920. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1844-1904. Brief record of judgments rendered in claims against the Mutual Insurance Company. C.H.

EQUITY RECORD, 1816--. C.H.

RECORD OF FINAL DECREES FOR DIVORCE, 1908--. Each volume indexed by name of complainant. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY PROCEEDINGS, 1847-54. H.R.

EQUITY DOCKETS, 1807--. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAINTIFF, 1905-14. Index to Equity Dockets. C.H.

PRIVATE DEEDS OF TRUST, 1846--. Record of mortgages on property held in trust in equity proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF RELEASES TO TRUSTEES, 1908--. Releases to trustees of estates issued by beneficiaries upon becoming 21 years of age. Indexed by names of beneficiary and trustee. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1869--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1805-1937. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1799-1906. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1907--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD [Naturalization], 1906--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF CORPORATIONS, 1868--. See also Record of Church Corporations. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF CHURCH CORPORATIONS, 1805-80. See also Record of Corporations. Indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1778-1886. Card index, 1778-98. H.R.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-88. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. H.R.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-81. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1896--. C.H.

RECORD OF INTENT TO BECOME CITIZENS, 1902--. Indexed. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS, 1901-05. Affidavits of voters that their absence from the State will be only temporary. Indexed. C.H.

POLL BOOKS, 1796-1873, 1887 (incomplete). H.R.

BOND RECORD, 1877--. Bonds of public officials. Also contains commissions of civil officers. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CONSTABLES BONDS, 1867--. Indexed. C.H.

COMMISSIONS OF COUNTY OFFICIALS, 1902-05. See also Bond Record. C.H.

TEST BOOKS (OATH BOOK), 1777-99, 1830--. Includes oaths of aliens who have been naturalized. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1777-1852.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1887--. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF CERTIFICATES TO FREE NEGROES, 1855-64. H.R.

TOBACCO INSPECTION RECORDS, 1748-69, 1789-91. H.R.

RECORD OF ESTRAYS, 1765-85. Record of certificates of stray animals sworn to by finder. Indexed. H.R.

HARPERS FERRY ROAD COMPANY, 1848-63. Minutes and proceedings of Levy Court of Frederick County, Assignees of Frederick and Harpers Ferry Road Company. Includes two plats of road. H.R.

WILLIAM RITCHIES' ACCOUNT BOOK, 1777-82. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1749--. C.H. Law Papers, 1789--; Equity Papers, 1816--. H.R. Court Papers, 1749-88 with a few scattered dates beyond.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS (MINUTE BOOKS), 1777--. Most volumes indexed after 1852. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1777-1853; 1853-1952, microfilm.

INDEX TO MINUTE BOOKS, 1815-52. Liber index. H.R. 1815-52; 1815-49, microfilm.

INDEX TO ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1818-24. H.R.

ESTATE DOCKETS, 1815--. C.H. 1935--. H.R. 1815-1935.

MISCELLANEOUS COURT ORDERS, 1870-1929. Orders issued by Orphans' Court in the settlement of estates. C.H.

ORDERS TO SELL STOCKS AND BONDS, 1921--. Orders issued by the Orphans' Court authorizing administrators and executors to sell or transfer stocks and bonds. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1748--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1748--. H.R. 1748-1948, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1748--. Campbell. C.H. 1748--. H.R. 1748-1930, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1799--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1799-1853; 1799-1850, microfilm.

APPLICATIONS FOR LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1893--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

APPROVAL OF BONDS, 1921--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1749--. Includes List of Sales, 1811-12. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1749-1851; 1749-1851, microfilm.

RECORD OF SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY (LIST OF ALL SALES, SALES), 1813--. 1811-12 in Inventories. Also contains Sales of Real Estate, 1811-32. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1813-51.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1832--. 1811-32 in Record of Sales of Personal Property. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1750--. C.H. 1750--. H.R. 1750-1823; 1750-1852, microfilm.

INDEX TO FINAL ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1813-93. Liber index. Indexed by names of decedent and administrator or executor. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1778-1853; 1778-1853, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1811--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1850--. H.R. 1811-50; 1811-52, microfilm.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN BONDS AND ACCOUNTS, 1812-74. Liber index. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1816-1868. H.R.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1796--. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H. 1859--. H.R. 1796-1859.

CLAIMANTS DOCKET, 1854-1907. C.H.

EQUITY PROCEEDINGS, 1865-1915. Indexed by name of complainant and respondent. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET (TRIAL DOCKET), 1870--. C.H.

APPRENTICE INDENTURES, 1794-1931. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. H.R. 1794-1931; 1794-1815, microfilm.

CERTIFICATES TO FREE NEGROES, 1815-63. Each volume indexed by name of slave. H.R.

REGISTRATION OF VOTERS, 1868. Lists of qualified voters in Frederick County delivered to the Register of Wills under the provisions of Chapter 297, Acts of 1868. District No. 1 is missing. Listed alphabetically by districts. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1748--. Comprised of following items:

Wills, C.H. 1886--. H.R. 1748-1885.

Administration Bonds, C.H. 1875--. H.R. 1748-1874.

Applications for Letters of Administration, C.H. 1897-98, 1906--.

Letters Testamentary, C.H. 1876-1927.

Inventories, C.H. 1876--. H.R. 1749-1875.

Sales of Personal Property, C.H. 1861-1926.

Sales of Real Estate, C.H. 1832-1926.

Administration Accounts, C.H. 1750-1928.

Guardian Bonds, C.H. 1880--. H.R. 1778-1879.

Guardian Accounts, C.H. 1875--. H.R. 1792-1874.

Releases, C.H. 1878--. H.R. 1784-1877.

Miscellaneous Papers, C.H. 1884--. H.R. 1802-83.

Estate Papers, all papers relating to each estate filed together. C.H. 1926--.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT, 1795-99, 1803-51. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1852--. C.H.

RECORDS OF THE LEVY COURT AND THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AS ASSIGNEES OF THE FREDERICK-HARPERS FERRY TURNPIKE ROAD COMPANY, 1848-63. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS OF TAX, 1798-1800. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL [AND REVIEW], 1910-11. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1784-1881, 1884-85, 1887, 1889, 1892, 1898-99, 1901--. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, DISTRICT No. 1, UNITY AND BURNT HOUSE WOODS HUNDRED, 1793, 1798. H.R.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1798--. C.H.

TAX BOOKS, 1813-1938. Incomplete for 1896, 1899, 1904, 1912 and 1926. C.H.

ROAD RECORDS (ROAD DOCKET), 1820-1923. C.H.

ROAD RECORD INDEX, 1748-1909. Identified on the flyleaf as a "Compendum of a Key to find Roads established by the Levy Courts, the Commissioners of Frederick County and Acts of the Assembly of State of Maryland." C.H.

ROAD SUPERVISORS BOOKS, 1845-53, 1891-1905. Record of work performed on roads. Each volume indexed by name of supervisor. C.H.

ALMSHOUSE BOND BOOK, 1871-79. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

PENSION BOOKS (PENSIONS), 1884-1906. Record of persons receiving out-pensions. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECEIPTS FOR BOUNTY MONEY, 1865. Record of receipts for bounty paid Civil War soldiers. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

SURVEYORS BOOKS, 1755-1913. Record of surveys made by the Frederick County Surveyor. Some volumes indexed. C.H.

CORPORATION OF FREDERICK TAX COLLECTORS BOOK, 1870. Filed in 1873 as exhibit in Equity No. 3624. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

GARRETT COUNTY

Records

There is fortunately little to be said about the records of Garrett County. Both man and nature have been kind. There have been no wars or rumors of wars in Western Maryland since this county was created. Neither has there been fire nor flood. Finally, the clear unpolluted mountain air is by far safer for records than any air-conditioning system yet devised by man. The searcher is fortunate to find full sets of records in every record-keeping agency.

Note

In Volume I, I stated that the contractor for the second courthouse was W. A. Liller. The weight of the evidence was for "W. A." and not "W. H." Liller, but there was a difference of opinion. Since that time we have found in the office of the Clerk of Court the *Record of Proceedings, Minutes of Meetings, Accounts of Commission, Miscellaneous Records of Court House Commission.* There the name is clearly given as Wm. A. Liller. We also learned that the exact day the Courthouse Commission turned the building over to the County Commissioners was December 7, 1908 and that the architect J. Riley Gordon was a member of the New York City firm of Gordon, Tracy and Swartaut.

Circuit Court

LAND AND MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1873--. Beginning in 1892, Land Records and Mortgage and Chattel Records were recorded in separate volumes, but in same series. In 1947, Chattel Mortgages were established as a separate series. C.H. 1873--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

INDEX TO DEEDS, 1873--. Cottco Universal. C.H. 1873--. L.O. 1873-1946. H.R. 1873-1963, microfilm.

INDEX TO REAL ESTATE MORTGAGES, 1873--. Cottco Universal. C.H.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1873--. Campbell. C.H. 1873--. H.R. 1873-1963, microfilm.

MORTGAGE AND CHATTEL INDEX, 1873--. Campbell. C.H.

INDEX TO ASSIGNMENTS OF MORTGAGES, 1888--. Campbell. C.H.

REPORTS OF TAX SALES, 1906--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1873--. Record of proceedings in equity cases, including foreclosures, trustees' sales, partition suits and final ratifications. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1873--. Campbell. Also serves as index to real estate cases in Court Dockets. C.H.

COURT DOCKET, 1873--. Also contains Court Minutes. Each volume indexed by names of plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO CRIMINAL COURT, 1873--. Campbell. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1874--. Beginning in 1904, civil and criminal cases are in separate volumes. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDICIAL SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1909--. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1896--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1873--. Includes Divorces, 1873-1907. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. 1873-1907 in Equity Docket. Each volume indexed by name of complainant and respondent. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY RECORD, 1873--. Campbell. Indexed by name of complainant and respondent. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1885-1926. C.H.

RELEASES, 1889--. Record of releases to trustees in equity cases. For earlier releases see Equity Dockets. C.H.

INDEX TO RELEASES, 1889--. Indexed. C.H.

AUDITORS' REPORTS, 1890--. Records of audits filed in equity cases. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

INDEX TO BENEFICIARIES UNDER DEEDS OF TRUST, 1898--. Campbell. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1882-93. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1873-1924. Indexed. C.H.

ALIEN DOCKET, 1873-1905. Record of aliens naturalized. Indexed. C.H.

PETITIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP [Naturalization], 1906--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHARTERED CORPORATIONS' RECORDS, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO CORPORATION RECORDS, 1898--. Liber index. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1873-86. Indexed. C.H. 1873-86. H.R. 1873-86, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. Combined Campbell index and record with entries under names of male and female. C.H.

RECORD CERTIFICATES OF PUBLICATION OF BANNS, 1890-1934. Formal notices by clergyman that the banns of persons named in certificate have been published at three successive weekly public services as substitute for marriage license. C.H.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1896--. C.H.

CORPORATION ELECTION RETURNS, 1898--. Returns of local elections. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902-49. Indexed. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS OF PERSONS LEAVING STATE TEMPORARILY, 1901-19. Indexed. C.H.

LIST OF VOTERS IN GARRETT COUNTY, 1872. List of voters in that part of Allegany County which became Garrett County in 1872. Arranged alphabetically by name of voter within districts. C.H.

BONDS AND COMMISSIONS [OF CIVIL OFFICERS], 1884--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1873--. C.H.

FIDUCIARIES REPORTS, 1901--. Record of trustees', guardians' and committee reports, showing disposition of funds of wards. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1873--. Include Law Papers, 1873; Equity Papers, 1873--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1873--. H.R. 1873-1954, microfilm.

GENERAL INDEX ORPHANS COURT, 1873-1904. Campbell. Indexed by name of administrator, executor or guardian, giving kind of instrument, name of decedent or ward and book and page in which recorded. C.H.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET (ESTATE DOCKET), 1873-1906, 1909--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1872--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1872--. H.R. 1872-1929, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1873--. C.H.

LETTERS TESTAMENTARY, 1873--. C.H.

INVENTORIES (INVENTORIES—PERSONAL ESTATE), 1873-1907, 1919-20, 1927--. Also includes inventories of real estate prior to 1937. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES—REAL ESTATE, 1937--. 1873-1936 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EXECUTORS' AND ADMINISTRATORS' SALES, 1887--. Accounts of sales of stocks and bonds and lists of personal property disposed of by administrators and executors. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE, 1876-1901. Authorization by court to appraise real estate of testator. Indexed. C.H.

APPRAISERS' WARRANTS, 1909--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1873--. H.R. 1873-1935, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1873--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1873--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H.

LETTERS OF GUARDIANSHIP, 1912--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H.

RELEASES, 1874-1912. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS RELEASES, 1906--. 1874-1906 in Releases. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

GUARDIAN RELEASES, 1906--. 1874-1906 in Releases. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

PASSED CLAIMS, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY RECORD, 1874-1903. Indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1875-1904. Indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1874-1905. C.H.

DEATHS, 1932--. Record of deaths of persons whose estates were administered in the Orphans' Court. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1873--. C.H. Comprised of following items:

Wills, 1880--.

Guardian Bonds, 1873--.

Guardian Accounts, 1873--.

Releases, 1904--.

Administrations, 1873--. Includes all other types of probate papers.

County Commissioners

COMMISSIONERS PROCEEDINGS, 1873--. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1873--. C.H.

ASSESSMENTS, 1867, 1873, 1876, 1896, 1910, 1917, 1922, 1927. Indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ASSESSMENTS, 1896, 1910, 1917, 1922, 1927. Campbell. C.H.

ASSESSMENTS AND RETURNS BY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1873--. Description and location of real and personal property. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GARRETT COUNTY LAND ASSESSMENT, 1876. Assessments of military lots and various other tracts of land. Arranged numerically by number of military lot, pp. 1-122, and alphabetically by name of tract within districts, pp. 123-258. C.H.

ROAD DOCKET, 1874-1934. Record of petitions for opening or closing roads, and construction of new or relocation of old roads. C.H.

ABSTRACTS OF TITLES, MILITARY LOTS, 1850. Record of titles to Military lots. Arranged alphabetically by name of receiver of military lot and name of tract. C.H.

INDEX TO ABSTRACT OF TITLES, TRACT RESURVEYS, 1850. Indexed by name of lot or tract. C.H.

RESURVEY GARRETT AND ALLEGANY COUNTY LINE, JUNE 22, 1878. Political map of resurvey of Garrett and Allegany County line beginning at a stone pile on summit of Savage Mountain where crossed by the Mason and Dixon Line to mouth of Savage River. John Harned. C.H.

HARFORD COUNTY

Records

Had it not been for the fact that the Register of Wills and the Clerk of the Court were housed in a vaultlike wing all of their records would have been lost in the fire of February 19, 1858. The main building was totally destroyed and with it the records of the County Commissioners and the earlier administrative bodies.

There are losses in the court records which must have occurred before the fire, some no doubt during the earliest days of the county, perhaps during the long period of peregrination by the court before the building of the first courthouse—1773-1791. Unfortunately, the early court proceedings which have survived are extraordinarily lacking in detail.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1773--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1773--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1773-91; 1773-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1773--. Paul Company Key Table Index. C.H. 1773--. L.O. 1773-1924, microfilm. H.R. 1773-1960, microfilm.

PLAT BOOKS, 1889--. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAT RECORDS, 1889--. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1933--. C.H.

TAX SALES BOOK, 1889--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MINUTES AND CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1774-78, 1783-95, 1797-1822, 1830--. See also Criminal Docket. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1779-88.

JUDGMENT RECORD, 1798-1886. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1793-94, 1803-17, 1821-77, 1884--. See also Minutes and Criminal Docket. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDGMENT INDEX, 1864-1918. Liber index. C.H.

DOCKETS (TRIAL DOCKETS), 1784, 1800--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

APPEAL DOCKETS, 1838--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1891--. 1773-1878 in Land Records; 1879-90 in Commission and Inquisition Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKETS, 1905--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY RECORDS, 1829--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY INDEX, 1803--. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1803--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RELEASE RECORD, 1892--. Record of releases of trustees in equity proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT AND JUDGMENT DOCKET, 1861-99. 1904-- in Bankruptcy Discharges. Indexed. C.H.

BANKRUPTCY DISCHARGES, 1904--. 1861-99 in Insolvent and Judgment Docket. Indexed. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD [Naturalization], 1900-16. Indexed. C.H.

MILITARY PETITIONS, 1920. Record of naturalizations of alien soldiers. C.H.

CORPORATION RECORDS, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LIMITED PARTNERSHIP RECORD, 1867--. Indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1779-1784, 1792-1886. C.H. 1779-1886. H.R. 1779-1886, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSE INDEX, 1779--. Indexed by names of male and female. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1892--. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-67. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

COMMISSION AND INQUISITION RECORDS, 1879--. 1773-1878 in Land Records. Record of commissions of civil officers and coroners' inquisitions. Also contains Bond Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOKS, 1801-34, 1850--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1774-84, 1806-11, 1818-62. C.H. 1843-62. H.R. 1774-1842.

LIST OF FREE NEGROES, 1832. H.R.

BOOK FOR RECORDING STRAYS, 1779-1801. H.R.

POLL BOOKS, 1790, 1792, 1795, 1800, 1812, 1839. (Incomplete). H.R.

BUSH RIVER DECLARATION, MARCH 22, 1775. Photostat copy of resolution from the Minute Book of the Committee of Harford County, endorsing the resolves of Congress and of the Provincial Convention adopted at Harford (or Bush), Maryland. Original Minute Book is now missing. H.R.

CENSUS OF 1820. Federal census returns for Districts 1-4. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1774--. Include Law Papers, 1777--; Equity Papers, 1817--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1800--. 1822-28 in Releases and Renunciations. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1800--. H.R. 1800-1953, microfilm.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1778-1909. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ESTATE DOCKET (KEY TO ADMINISTRATIONS), 1774--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ESTATE DOCKET, 1774-1913. C.H.

WILLS, 1774--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1774--. H.R. 1774-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1774--. Campbell. C.H. 1774--. H.R. 1774-1948, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1774-1820, 1857--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1774--. H.R. 1774-1820, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATIONS AND EXECUTOR OATHS AND AFFIRMATIONS, 1891--. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1777--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1777--. H.R. 1777-1852, microfilm.

INVENTORIES OF REAL ESTATE, 1890--. For earlier record, see Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ACCOUNTS OF SALES, 1795--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE SALES, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1801--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1801--. H.R. 1801-51, microfilm.

DISTRIBUTIONS (ASSETS), 1802-1928. 1929-- in Administration Accounts. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1778--. H.R. 1778-1902, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1800--. See Original Papers for earlier Guardian Accounts. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1800--. H.R. 1801-73, microfilm.

GUARDIANSHIP DOCKET, 1778--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GUARDIAN PETITIONS, 1866--. C.H.

RELEASES AND RENUNCIATIONS, 1810-39, 1866--. Also contains Orphans Court Proceedings, 1822-28. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY RECORD, 1868-1909. Each volume indexed by plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1864-1913. Indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

GENERAL DOCKET, 1901-25. Brief record of equity cases removed to Circuit Court. Each volume indexed. C.H.

COMMITTEE TO REFURNISH REGISTER'S OFFICE, 1914. Proceedings of the Committee appointed by the county commissioners to refurnish the register's office, including authorization to replace furnishings, appointment of committee, notice to publishers, list of bids, blue prints, samples of materials, contract awarded, list of persons employed and amount of salaries. C.H.

ALMSHOUSE JOURNAL, 1790-92. Record of disbursements of the county almshouse for maintenance and supplies, giving list of inmates, case number, date, purpose, and amount of disbursement. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1774--. C.H. Comprised of the following items:

Wills, 1800--.

Administration Bonds, 1774--, some years missing.

Guardian Bonds, 1800--, numerous years missing.

Guardian Accounts, 1777--.

Guardian Releases, 1800--.

Estate Papers, 1774--, includes Inventories, Administration Accounts, etc.

Petitions, Letters and Other Papers, 1774--.

Papers in Estates Recorded in Baltimore County, 1774-76. Inventories of residents of that part of Baltimore County that was included in Harford in 1774.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS (RECORDS, JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS), 1858--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1858-96. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOK, 1858--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

TRANSFER BOOKS, 1858--. C.H.

PROPERTY BOOK AND LEVY LIST, 1884-1904. Record of total assessment of each taxpayer by district; Also a list of accounts for each general charge for the district, showing total expenses, amount of taxes received, insolvencies, state and county taxes. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

ROAD BOOKS, 1858-91. Record of proceedings in laying out roads in the County. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO OLD ROADS IN DISTRICTS, 1858-91. C.H.

LAND RECORD PUBLIC ROADS, 1858-79. Record of petitions to the county commissioners to resurvey and repair public roads in the county. C.H.

PENSION LIST, 1904-35. C.H.

INMATES HARFORD COUNTY ALMSHOUSE, 1906--. C.H.

LEDGER, 1858--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

HOWARD COUNTY

Records

While Howard County did not become a County *de jure* until it was so constituted by the Constitutional Convention of 1850, it was a county *de facto* after the passage of the Act of 1838 setting its bounds and naming it Howard District of Anne Arundel County. It is for this reason that the earliest records begin in 1840 rather than ten years later, a situation unique in Maryland History.

The county is also unique in that its courts still occupy—altered somewhat, to be sure—the original courthouse. This fortunate state has prevented the great loss of records normally attendant on the move from one building to another. Nor have any natural hazards ever threatened the record vaults in Ellicott City. The records are full and complete.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1839--. Includes mortgages except for period 1868-73 when they were recorded in separate volumes. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1839--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1839-1949, microfilm.

MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1868-73. Earlier and later mortgages in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

GRANTOR GRANTEE INDEX, DEEDS AND MORTGAGES, 1840--. Cottco Universal. C.H. 1840--. L.O. 1857-1919, microfilm. H.R. 1840-1957, microfilm.

MORTGAGE INDEX, 1868-73. Liber index. C.H.

PLATS, 1840--. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

CHATTEL RECORDS, 1840--. Also includes Civil Officers and Trustees Bonds, 1840-64; Incorporations, 1840-95; Indentures, 1840-65; Manumissions, 1840-65; Certificates of Estray, 1840-65. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1874--. H.R. 1840-73.

INDEX TO CHATTEL RECORDS, 1840--. Liber index, 1840-1935; Cott, 1935--. C.H. 1915--. H.R. 1840-1914.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT, 1840, 1847--. Includes naturalizations, 1847-1902. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1934--. H.R. 1840-1933.

JUDGMENT DOCKETS (LAW DOCKETS), 1840--. Each volume indexed, 1840-61, 1878-1922. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENT DOCKET (JUDGMENT INDEX), 1840--. Liber index, 1840-1921; Cottco Universal, 1922--. C.H. 1909--. H.R. 1840-1908.

EJECTMENT RECORD, 1854-57. C.H.

COUNTY DOCKET, CIVIL DOCKET (CIVIL TRIAL DOCKET), 1840-49. Includes appeals from magistrates judgments. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CLERK'S DOCKET, 1852-53, 1855, 1859--. Only 1859-60 indexed. C.H.

Howard County Courthouse of 1843.

APPEARANCE DOCKET, 1859--. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKET, 1844--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H. 1891--. H.R. 1844-91.

STET DOCKET, 1892--. Indexed. C.H.

CRIMINAL STET DOCKET, 1912-48. 1948-- in Criminal Docket. Record of cases stetted for the purpose of declaring the defendant a criminal lunatic for placement in a hospital for the criminally insane rather than in a penitentiary. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

RECOGNIZANCE DOCKET, 1848--. C.H.

REFERENCE DOCKET, 1840-79. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORDS, 1863--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDICIAL SUITS AND EXECUTION DOCKET (CRIMINALS AND JUDICIALS), 1840--. Includes criminals, 1840-45. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1902--. C.H.

EQUITY RECORD (CHANCERY RECORD), 1842--. Each volume indexed, 1842-1928. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREES, 1909--. Earlier divorces in Equity Records. Indexed by name of complainant. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1840--. Each volume indexed, 1840-1911. C.H.

DEFENDANT INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKETS, 1840--. Cott Family. C.H.

DOCKET [EQUITY TRIAL DOCKET], 1842-67. Indexed by name of respondent. C.H.

TRUSTEES RELEASES, 1870--. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1895-96. Indexed by names of insolvent and creditor. C.H.

INSOLVENTS DOCKET, 1881-1934. Indexed by names of insolvent and creditor. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1903--. 1847-1902 in Proceedings of Court. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1907-29. C.H.

PETITION RECORD [Naturalization], 1907-29. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF INCORPORATION, 1895--. 1840-95 in Chattel Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LICENSES, 1840-1934. Marriage, retailers, traders, hawkers and peddlers, restaurant and other licenses. Marriage licenses recorded separately after 1886. C.H. 1886-1936. H.R. 1840-86.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES AND MARRIAGES, 1886--. Marriage Licenses, 1840-86 in Licenses. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO MARRIAGES, 1921--. Cottco Universal. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886-91, 1896-1920. C.H. 1900-20. H.R. 1886-1900.

ELECTION RECORDS, 1889--. Also includes affidavits of temporary absence. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REGISTRY OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902-49. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS, TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS BONDS, 1858--. Civil Officers and Trustees Bonds, 1840-64 in Chattel Records. Also includes Certificates of Freedom, 1840-63. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1904--. H.R. 1858-1904.

TEST BOOKS, 1840--. C.H. 1907--. H.R. 1840-1907.

RECORD OF QUALIFICATIONS OF JUSTICES OF THE PEACE AND OTHER CIVIL OFFICERS, 1840-59. C.H.

SLAVE STATISTICS, 1868. Indexed by name of slave owner. C.H.

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS OF THE HOWARD COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOL AND ROAD COMMISSION, 1922-27. Commission established to administer bond issue authorized by Chapter 485, Acts of 1922. C.H.

TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD, 1875-84. Certified copies of transcripts from Clerk of Superior Court of Baltimore City of cases removed from Baltimore in change of venue for trial in Howard County. Volume for 1882 indexed. C.H.

HOWARD COUNTY BAR, 1900--. Register of attorneys eligible to plead in Howard County Circuit Court. Indexed. C.H.

PARTITION RECORD, 1852-99. Contains copies of wills, plats, commissioners' reports, bills of complaint, agreements, interlocutory decrees and related matters in the division of property, including the estates of Charles Carroll, Warfields, Dorseys, and Latrobes; also large pen and ink colored plat marked "General Plat of Whole tract called Doughoregon Manor Enlarged," estate of Charles Carroll. Indexed by names of grantor and grantee. C.H.

(PARTITION RECORD), 1864-66. Record of division of property known as "Doughoregon Manor," pursuant to an order of Court passed December 9, 1863. Arranged numerically by property division number. C.H. 1864-66. H.R. 1864-66, microfilm.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1832--. Include Law Papers, 1832--; Equity Papers, 1842--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1840--. Each volume indexed, 1840-1928. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-1952, microfilm.

DOCKET, 1840-1933. Record of orders issued by Orphans Court pertaining to settlement of estates. Each volume indexed, 1870-1920. C.H.

DOCKET INDEX, 1840-70. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1840-1908. 1908-- in Estate Dockets. Arranged alphabetically by name of decedent. C.H.

ESTATE DOCKET, 1908--. 1840-1908 in Administration Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO ESTATE DOCKET, 1908--. Burr's Record Index. C.H.

WILLS, 1840--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1840--. Liber index. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-1950, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1840--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-70, microfilm.

INDEX TO EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS BONDS, 1840--. Indexed by names of decedent and executor or administrator. C.H.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1866-67. Indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES (INVENTORIES PERSONAL PROPERTY), 1840--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-54, microfilm.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES, 1840-1927. Indexed by names of decedent and executor or administrator. C.H.

LIST OF DEBTS, 1865--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, REAL ESTATE, 1867--. Indexed, 1867-1926. C.H.

ACCOUNT OF SALES OF PERSONAL PROPERTY, 1840--. Each volume indexed, 1840-1926. C.H.

INDEX TO ACCOUNT OF SALES OF PERSONAL ESTATE, 1840-1927. Liber index. C.H.

ACCOUNT OF SALES REAL ESTATE, 1867--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1840--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-53, microfilm.

INDEX TO EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ACCOUNTS, 1840-1927. Liber index. C.H.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1840--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1840--. H.R. 1840-1942, microfilm.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN BONDS, 1840-1927. Liber index. Indexed by names of ward and guardian. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1844--. Indexed by name of guardian, 1844-1933. C.H. 1844--. H.R. 1844-58, microfilm.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1844-1927. Liber index. Indexed by name of guardian. C.H.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1833-53, 1870-1924. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RELEASES, 1840--. Each volume indexed by name of person released, 1840-1931. C.H.

INDEX TO RELEASES, 1840-1927. Liber index. Indexed by name of person released. C.H.

PASSED CLAIM DOCKET, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1840-1913. Indexed by names of master and apprentice. C.H.

MANUMISSIONS, 1843-63. Indexed by name of slave. C.H.

ANNUAL VALUE OF REAL ESTATE, 1841-1902. Indexed. C.H.

CORRECTED LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS, 1869. List of qualified voters of Howard County, compiled under provisions of Chapter 297, Acts of 1868. Arranged alphabetically by district. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1840--. C.H. Comprised of following items:

Wills, 1841-1927.

Inventories, 1840-1927.

View of Ellicott's Mills—Howard County. Courthouse in upper left corner.

Inventories of Real Estate, 1867-1927.

Lists of Debts, 1843-1927.

Accounts of Sales, Personal Property, 1841-1927.

Accounts of Sales, Real Estate, 1840-1927.

Guardian Bonds, 1840-1927.

Guardian Accounts, 1844-1927.

Releases, 1843-1927.

Miscellaneous Papers, 1840-1927.

Estate Papers, 1927--. Includes all original papers relating to each estate filed under name of decedent.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS (RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS), 1857-79, 1891--. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS (LEVY LISTS), 1841--. Indexed. C.H.

ASSESSMENTS, 1840--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

[ASSESSORS] FIELD BOOKS, 1876. Arranged alphabetically by name of owner within each district. C.H.

TRANSFER BOOKS (TRANSFERS AND RELEASES), 1840-81, 1884-97, 1918--. C.H.

ROAD SUPERVISORS ACCOUNTS, 1870-77. C.H.

ROAD RECORD, 1889-1903. C.H.

PETITIONS, APPEALS AND APPLICATIONS, 1880--. Original petitions to County Commissioners for opening, building and improvement of roads, bridges and other public utilities, petitions for change of rates in Elkridge water district; appeals for change of tax basis; applications for appointments as police officers. C.H.

ROAD PETITIONS AND ROAD EXAMINERS REPORTS, 1913--. Original papers. C.H.

KENT COUNTY

Records

The court records of Kent County are among the earliest surviving records of the Province of Maryland. The fact that the very earliest have disappeared has contributed to the difficulty of tracing the history of the County, but the Land Records of 1648, which we have, do indicate that the county government was functioning before that year at least. The passage of time, three hundred years, is explanation enough for record attrition, but in Kent County there was, in addition, noteworthy neglect on the part of the custodians. A legislative committee of 1697/98 reported, as we have seen, that the courthouse had a wooden chimney, a standing invitation to fire, and also that the records were kept at the clerk's house except possibly when court was in session. It may be assumed that the clerk's house presented an even greater hazard because of the necessity for fire being kindled in a dwelling almost every day of the year either for heating or cooking.

The burning of the courthouse by Charles Hill in the spring of 1720 must have taken its toll of records but what and how much we cannot tell. Fortunately, a great deal survived, for another legislative committee, reporting April 5, 1736, advised "That by the Return of the Justices from Kent County their Records and Papers since the time Mr. James Smith hath been Clerk which begun in the year 1707 Appear to be in good order and Repair that the Books before that time are much worn and the Original Papers greatly Decayed."[1] All of the original papers have now long since disappeared, but many of the volumes which were much worn have survived through transcriptions. Since these transcriptions were done economically—what survived of several books might be copied into one—they are difficult to use. Louis Dow Scisco has attempted to analyze them in a study in the *Maryland Historical Magazine,* but apparently many of the Judgment Records were unavailable to him so that his analyses are not so complete as they might be.[2] A single volume, Liber B, was thoroughly analyzed by Bernard C. Steiner.[3] This volume had somehow strayed from the courthouse before Hanson's time in the 1870's and had been deposited, November 12, 1906, in the Maryland Historical Society where it remained until it was reclaimed by the County, October 16, 1912. It has subsequently come to the Hall of Records with the other colonial records of the County.

Liber A has also had a special history. Originally it contained one hundred twenty-six folios, of which the first ninety-five are now missing. That part of the volume which has survived was published in the *Maryland Archives.*[4] In addition to the manuscript liber, the editor has pieced out parts of the lost record from a transcript volume of 1727 and from the printed excerpts found in Hanson's *Old Kent.*[5] Apparently all or much of this volume was still extant when Hanson was writing.

While a large collection of Kent County records has survived, it is obvious that a great deal is missing. Moreover, a good deal of what has survived has come to us in the form of transcripts. The records are difficult to follow and the student is urged to use Steiner's abstract as a guide to Liber B and the version of Liber A of the Court Proceedings in *Archives of Maryland* LIV. Scisco's guide to the other Colonial volumes is indispensable.

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[1] *Arch. of Md.,* XXXIX, 394-95.

[2] *Md. Hist. Mag.,* XXI, 356-61.

[3] *Ibid.,* VIII, 1-33.

[4] LIV, 1-352; also to be found here, Liber B and C.

[5] Baltimore, 1876.

Note

A little light has been shed on the Courthouse at New Yarmouth on Eastern Neck which we know was built by 1679 but nothing else. On April 20, 1679 William Key left the residue of his estate to his executors Major [James] Ringgold and Samuell Tovy "for the finishing of the Court house at New Yarmouth. . . ." (*Wills* 10, Liber No. C. ff. 79-80). Key must have died only a few days later for on May 15, 1679, Ringgold and Tovy assigned the residue of Key's estate to "Michaell Miller high Sherriffe . . . & William Raules his now sub-sheriffe & one josias Lanham a carpenter [who] did become bound by Recognizance in open Court for the said William Key for the building and finishing of a Court house & prison in the said County. . . ." (*Testamentary Proceedings,* 11, ff. 80-81).

The meaning of the above is clear; what is not clear is a will made February 18, 1678 (old style) and probated March 31, 1679. The testator was Roger Shacocke, Carpenter who devised as follows: "I doe hear give & Bequeath unto my Loveing ffriend Wm. Key of Kent County Carpenter all my personnall estate. . . ." Key was named sole executor. (Wills 10, ff. 80-82) It seems probable that Shacocke was Key's partner in the building of the Courthouse and his bequest was an effort to save Key who, alas! profited little from his friend's generosity.

Who finished the courthouse is still an unanswered question. But the time it was begun has become a little more precise. The county levy approved October 30, 1677 allowed 600 pounds of tobacco to John Darby for keeping Court at his house. (*Kent County Court Proceedings,* Liber I, p. 32.) The next year 700 pounds of tobacco was allowed Thomas Seward for the same service, and in this same levy, passed December 10, 1678, 15,000 pounds of tobacco is made available "Toward the building the Courtt house" (*Op. cit.,* p. 65).

Circuit Court

LAND RECORD, 1648-85, 1692--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1648--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1648-1790; 1648-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1648-1955. Campbell. C.H. 1648-1955. L.O. 1648-1950, microfilm. H.R. 1842-83; 1648-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1956--. Cottco Universal. C.H. 1956--. H.R. 1956-62, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1648-1869. Liber index. H.R. 1648-1869; 1842-69, microfilm.

LAND COMMISSION RECORDS, 1716-21, 1826-37. See also Land Records. C.H. 1826-37. H.R. 1716-21.

BONDS, INDENTURES, ETC. (MARKS OF CATTEL AND HOGGS AND OTHER SMALL BUSSINESSES), 1694-1726, 1731-40, 1743-82. Record of miscellaneous instruments brought into court to be recorded including bonds to pay filial portions, guardian bonds, sheriffs bonds, indentures, powers of attorney, annual valuations, record of convicts, cattle marks and publication of freight rates. Some volumes indexed. H.R.

BONDS, BILLS OF SALE, ETC. (RECORD FOR BILLS OF SALE OF GOODS AND CHATTLES AND MORTGAGES, ETC.) [CHATTEL RECORDS], 1751-1851, 1857--. Includes chattel records, commissions, bonds and certificates of qualification of county officials, recognizance bonds, annual valuations, powers of attorney, indentures, manumissions, insolvent petitions, supersedeas and coroners' inquisitions. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1857--. H.R. 1751-1851.

INDEX TO CHATTEL RECORDS (INDEX TO BILLS OF SALE, MANUMISSIONS, BONDS), 1750-1845. Campbell. H.R.

MINUTES (MINUTES OF COURT AND DOCKET ENTRIES), 1774-1802, 1818-27. 1821-22 in Court Proceedings, 1807. 1833-35, 1838-44 in Civil Dockets. Volumes for 1818-27 include Docket Entries for cases acted on during each term of court. H.R.

COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1654-62, 1675-98, 1700-05, 1707-09, 1714-20, 1722-25, 1731-73, 1781-1809. Volumes for 1654-98 also contain land records which have been transcribed into separate volumes listed in Land Records. Volumes after 1723 contain civil judgments only. Volume for 1807 also contains Minutes of Court and Docket Entries, 1821-22. H.R.

DOCKETS (CIVIL DOCKETS), 1728-39, 1748-52, 1759-65, 1767-71, 1777--. Includes both Civil and Criminal Dockets, 1860--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1728-1850.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS AND DECREES, 1855-96, 1900--. Campbell. C.H.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS (CRIMINAL BUSINESS, CRIMINALS), 1724-72. H.R.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS (CRIMINALS), 1766-71, 1774-80, 1782-1822, 1824-34. 1860-- in Dockets. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. H.R.

STET DOCKET, 1867--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORDS, 1816-1921. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1858--. H.R. 1816-57.

BONDS, 1886--. Record of bonds filed in court cases. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENTS BEFORE DISTRICT COURTS, 1836-38. Record of judgments recovered before District Courts under Chapter 201, Acts of 1835. H.R.

PETITIONS, 1739-57. Record of petitions for commissions to perpetuate boundaries of lands, for tavern licenses, for public roads, public ferries, for freedom dues of servants, for registering houses of worship, etc. H. R.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1837--. Includes Divorce Decrees, 1841-1908. Each volume indexed by name of complainant and respondent. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREES, 1909--. 1841-1908 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY PROCEEDINGS, 1856--. Campbell. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1816--. Some volumes indexed by name of respondent. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1886--. Indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

TRUSTEE RELEASES, 1862--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION VOLUME, 1822-1908. C.H.

DECLARATIONS OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1908--. C.H.

PETITIONS FOR CITIZENSHIP, 1908--. C.H.

AGENCY AND CORPORATION RECORDS, 1869--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1796-1802, 1815-86. H.R.

INDEX TO MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1796-1802, 1815-86. Campbell. H.R.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-88. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. H.R. original and microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. Combined Campbell index and record with entries under names of male and female. C.H. 1886--. H.R. 1886-1915, microfilm.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1933--. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-73. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-71. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902--. Arranged alphabetically by name of voter. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS [OF TEMPORARY REMOVAL], 1918--. C.H.

POLL BOOKS, 1819, 1821, 1822, 1832, 1835, 1842, 1852, 1861, 1863, 1867. Incomplete for some elections. H.R.

COMMISSIONS, 1832-74. Indexed. H.R.

TEST BOOKS (OATHS OF OFFICE, BOOK OF OATHS), 1779--. C.H. 1858--. H.R. 1779-1858.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1849-61. H.R.

RECORD OF SLAVES IN KENT COUNTY, 1864. H.R.

TOBACCO INSPECTION RECORDS, 1748-87. H.R.

ROAD RECORD, 1860--. Record of proceedings in condemnation of land for road purposes. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1722-1808. H.R.

JOSEPH N. GORDON, LEDGER, 1820-31. Also includes Letter Book No. 1, 1816, containing copies of letters written by Charles Gordon, Commander of the Ship *Constellation*. H.R.

RULES OF COURT, 1806--. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1753--. Filed in boxes, but poorly arranged. Include Court Papers, 1753--; Equity Papers, 1816--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1803--. Each volume indexed, 1812--. C.H. 1823--. H.R. 1803-22; 1803-1952, microfilm.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1848--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1664-1945. H.R.

WILLS, 1674--. Also contains Inventories, 1668-1708; Accounts, 1673-1708. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1674-1798, microfilm; 1798--. H.R. 1674-1798; 1798-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1674--. Campbell. C.H. 1674--. H.R. 1674-1948, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1664-1767, 1773--. 1850-66 in Land Sales, 1843-66. Also includes Guardian Bonds, 1790-95; Certificates of Freedom, 1857-63. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1664-1838, microfilm; 1838-49, 1867--. H.R. 1664-1838, 1850-66; 1664-1850, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION OATHS, 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1709--. 1668-1708 in Wills; 1819-1820 in Guardian Bonds. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1709-1827, microfilm; 1827--. H.R. 1709-1827; 1827-1850, microfilm.

LIST OF DEBTS, 1874--. 1668-1708 in Wills; 1709-1874 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES AND SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1874--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1709--. 1673-1708 in Wills; 1817-20 in Guardian Bonds. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1709-1820, microfilm; 1821--. H.R. 1709-1821; 1821-49, microfilm.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1673--. Campbell. C.H.

VOUCHERS, 1806-40. H.R.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778--. Also contains Guardian Accounts, 1816-67; Administration Bonds, 1819-20; Inventories, 1819-20; Administration Accounts, 1817-20; Land Valuations, 1778-1848; Indentures, 1778-1848. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1829--. H.R. 1778-1829; 1778-1860, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1787--. 1816-67 in Guardian Bonds. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1829--. H.R. 1787-1829; 1787-1860, microfilm.

INDEX TO GUARDIAN BONDS AND ACCOUNTS, 1863--. Campbell. Indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN APPLICATIONS, 1921--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RELEASES AND RECEIPTS, 1862--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

LAND SALES, 1843-61. Also contains Administration Bonds, 1850-66. Indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET (REAL ESTATE DOCKET), 1873-1902. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ASSIGNMENTS OF DISTRIBUTEES AND LEGATEES, 1895-1934. Indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES AND LAND VALUATIONS, 1848-59. Indentures for 1778-1848 in Guardian Bonds. Indexed. C.H.

LAND VALUATIONS (INDENTURES AND LAND VALUATIONS, ANNUAL RENTS AND DISTRIBUTION OF NEGROES), 1848-95. 1778-1848 in Guardian Bonds. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1848-59. H.R. 1860-95.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1664--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1801--. H.R. 1676-1801 with card index.

Administration Bonds. C.H. 1799--. H.R. 1664-1799 with card index.

Inventories. C.H. 1847--. H.R. 1668-1847 with card index for 1668-1790.

Accounts. C.H. 1777--. H.R. 1673-1777 with card index.

Guardian Bonds. C.H. 1829--. H.R. 1801-06, 1821-28.

Guardian Accounts. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1786-90.

County Commissioners

MINUTES, 1886--. C.H.

LEVY LISTS, 1857-59, 1862, 1864-65, 1869, 1877, 1879, 1884-85, 1891-95, 1897-98, 1903-04, 1914-15, 1917-19. H.R.

ASSESSMENTS BOOKS, 1804--. C.H.

LEDGER, COMMISSIONERS OF THE TAX (LEDGER, LEVY COURT), 1804-52. Record of assessments on taxpayers showing increases and deductions. Each volume indexed, 1804-40. H.R.

GENERAL LEDGER, 1867--. C.H.

INSOLVENCY BOOKS, 1880--. C.H.

TAX SALES, 1931--. C.H.

TAX COLLECTORS INDEBTEDNESS FOR LEVIES COLLECTED FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF KENT COUNTY RAILROAD BONDS, 1868-80. H.R.

POLL BOOKS, SCATTERED DATES, 1802-06, 1844-70. C.H.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY

Records

Montgomery County has been especially fortunate in preserving its governmental records. Its court, land and probate records may be said to be intact and there are records of the Commissioner of the Tax and other early administrative bodies which are almost totally lacking elsewhere.

Part of its good fortune is certainly due to the fact that it has escaped the normal hazards of acts of God and it has been out of the line of march of hostile human beings. Its courthouses since there has been any considerable accumulation of records have all been within one plot of land so that there was little incentive to destroy records in order to ease the problems of moving. It is a valid deduction too that the custodians of the records have valued them.

Note

The second Rockville courthouse, completed in 1840, has had some of the mystery surrounding it dispelled since the appearance of Volume I of this work. A picture which appeared in the *Montgomery County Sentinel* September 29, 1955 was sent me by Mr. Thomas M. Anderson, Jr., Attorney of Rockville and President of the Montgomery County Historical Society. This newspaper picture was rephotographed by the Hall of Records but was still so indistinct as to be useless as an illustration. However, it was clear enough to make it possible for the artist to find all the details for the drawing herewith reproduced. It would have been better to have found the photograph from which the newspaper reproduction was made but in spite of the efforts of Mr. Anderson and Miss Martha Sprigg Poole it could not be traced. It appears to have been the property of Mr. Albert Bouic of Rockville who lent it for use in the office of Judge Charles W. Woodward. On Judge Woodward's retirement the picture seems to have been returned to Mr. Bouic, but of this point and of its subsequent history no one is now certain.

A great deal more might have been known about this same courthouse if the full records of its construction had been found in the County Council's office. They were in existence in the late 1930's when the Historical Records Survey of the WPA listed them as Item No. 177 in *Inventory of the County and Town Archives of Maryland.* A diligent search made in 1962 for these records has unfortunately proved fruitless.

In the same work there was listed, Item No. 178, the *Proceedings of the Courthouse Committee of 1928-31.* This record is now in the Hall of Records and has been examined. The reader who wishes more detail may find it here, but it did not reveal any inaccuracies in the account of this courthouse given in Volume I.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1777--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1948--, microfilm. H.R. 1777-91; 1777-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO GRANTORS AND MORTGAGORS, 1777--. Russell-Key. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1777-1947.

Montgomery County Courthouse of 1840.

INDEX TO GRANTEES AND MORTGAGEES, 1777--. Russell-Key. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1777-1947.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1777-1927. Campbell. H.R. 1777-1927; 1777-1863, microfilm.

PLAT BOOKS, 1883--. Earlier record in Land Records. C.H.

PLAT INDEX, 1777--. Russell-Key. Refers to plats in Land Records and Plat Books. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

COURT MINUTES, 1779, 1781-1800, 1808, 1810-12, 1817-18, 1820-22, 1824, 1826-77, 1879, 1881-89, 1891-1931, 1933--. C.H. 1821--. H.R. 1779-1820.

COURT RECORD, 1777-1816. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF SHORT JUDGMENTS (RECORD OF JUDGMENTS, GENERAL INDEX JUDGMENTS), 1818-27, 1846--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DOCKETS, 1777--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1892--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

REFERENCE DOCKET, 1807-27, 1871-91. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1871-91. H.R. 1807-27.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1894--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1902--. See also "Records Roads Commission." Each volume indexed. C.H.

SUPERSEDEAS, 1809-15, 1821. Indexed by name of plaintiff, 1809-15. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORD (Equity), 1817--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DIVORCE RECORD, 1909--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY INDEX, 1808--. Campbell. H.R.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1815--. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886-1914. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1827-34, 1845-65, 1889-90. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION PETITIONS, 1907--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1906--. Indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1905--. C.H.

RECORD OF ADMISSIONS AND DENIALS, 1930--. Record of petitions for citizenship granted or denied. Indexed. C.H.

CORPORATION RECORDS, 1869--. Earlier records in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSE RECORDS, 1799-1899. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES (RECORD OF MARRIAGES, INDEX TO MARRIAGE LICENSES), 1886--. Combined Campbell index and record of marriages. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-87, 1899. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-78. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

CITIZENSHIP RECORDS, 1902-49. Register of persons intending to become citizens of Montgomery County. Each volume indexed. H.R.

CITIZENS AFFIDAVIT OF REMOVAL, 1890--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

POLL BOOKS, 1884-95. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1780--. Each volume indexed, 1904--. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1806-63. Also contains List of Free Negroes, 1832. Each volume indexed, 1827-63. C.H.

SLAVE STATISTICS MONTGOMERY COUNTY, 1864. Arranged alphabetically by name of owner. C.H.

RECORDS ROADS COMMISSIONS (ROADS, BONDS, COMMISSIONS, ETC.), 1886--. Record of condemnation proceedings for roads and commissions and bonds of county officers. See also Bond Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF CERTIFICATES OF STRAY HORSES (STRAY RECORD), 1788-1844, 1851-61. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1777--. In good order. Include Law Papers, 1777--; Equity Papers, 1815--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE ORPHANS COURT, 1779--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1855--. H.R. 1779-1855; 1779-1954, microfilm.

DOCKET (ORPHANS COURT DOCKET), 1805-42, 1848-54, 1865-82. C.H.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET [ADMINISTRATION DOCKET], 1798--. Also includes Guardians Docket, 1798-1911. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PETITIONS, DECREES ORDERS, ETC., 1858--. Also includes Indentures, 1858-79; Appointments of School Commissioners, 1860-64. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD BOOKS (RECORDS), 1777-1858. Record of all instruments filed with the Orphans Court for recording. Wills established as separate series in 1852. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1777-1851, microfilm; 1852-58. H.R. 1777-1851; 1852-58, microfilm.

WILLS, 1852--. 1777-1851 in Record Books. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1852-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1777--. Campbell. C.H. 1777--. H.R. 1777-1942.

BONDS OF EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, 1897--. 1777-1858 in Record Books; 1858-96 in Final Releases, Renunciations and Indentures. Each volume indexed by name of executor or administrator. C.H.

INVENTORIES, SALES, DEBTS, 1858--. 1777-1858 in Record Books. Also includes Administration Accounts and Guardian Accounts, 1858-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ACCOUNTS (RECORD OF ACCOUNTS), 1906--. 1777-1858 in Record Books; 1858-1906 in Inventories, Sales Debts. Also includes Guardian Accounts. Each volume indexed by name of executor, administrator or guardian. C.H.

GUARDIANS BONDS, 1897--. 1777-1858 in Record Books; 1858-96 in Final Releases, Renunciations and Indentures. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1911--. 1798-1911 in Orphans Court Docket. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H.

FINAL RELEASES, RENUNCIATIONS AND INDENTURES, 1858--. 1777-1858 in Record Books. Also contains Administrators and Executors Bonds and Guardian Bonds, 1858-96. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1777-1879. See Record Books, 1777-1858; Final Releases, Renunciations and Indentures, 1858-66; Petitions, Decrees, Orders, etc., 1858-79. C.H.

CERTIFICATE OF FREEDOM, 1806-62. Each volume indexed by name of Negro. C.H.

OUTPENSIONERS' ACCOUNTS, 1819-21. Journal accounts of outpensions, showing balance, amounts received and paid to trustees of the poor and pensioners, giving name of payee and amount paid. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1777--. C.H. Comprised of following items:

Wills, 1777--.

Administration Papers, 1777--. Includes all other papers relating to estates.

County Commissioners

LEVY PAPERS [PROCEEDINGS OF LEVY COURT], 1794-1838. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS (PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COUNCIL), 1844--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MINUTES OF BOARD OF CONTROL AND REVIEW, 1910-11. C.H.

LEVY LISTS (LEVY BOOKS, LEVY), 1778-80, 1807-08, 1810, 1813, 1815-16, 1891--. C.H. 1895--.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS (ASSESSMENT DOCKETS), 1798--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

[ASSESSORS] FIELD BOOKS (ASSESSMENTS), 1826-1918. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

TRANSFERS, 1831-41, 1876-1935. C.H.

DUPLICATE CERTIFICATES OF ASSESSMENT, 1845-49, 1856-59, 1892-97, 1899-1909, 1914. H.R.

ROAD RECORD, 1798-1818. Record of proceedings of levy court in road supervision. C.H.

ROADS OPENED, 1793-1917. Original papers, including petitions to open roads and reports of committee, condemnation proceedings to acquire land; petitions for bridges, specifications for roads and bridges and petitions to build roads by subscription. C.H.

SUPERVISOR'S BONDS AND ACCOUNTS, 1797-1826, 1892-97. Original papers. C.H.

ROAD SUPERVISORS, 1892-1913. Record of accounts of road supervisors for building and repairing roads. C.H.

RECORD OF OUTPENSIONERS, 1843-46. C.H.

RECORD OF TAX SALES, 1904--. C.H.

PLATS, 1889--. Plats of subdivisions and towns with additions. C.H.

PLATS INDEX SERIAL, 1889--. Arranged numerically by plat number. Plats 890-967 not indexed. C.H.

ALPHABETICAL PLAT INDEX, 1914--. Indexed by name of tract or subdivision or by name of street or road. C.H.

LOT RECORD (LOT BOOK), 1912--. Record of subdivisions, giving plat reference, lot number, portion of lot, name of owner, block number or letter. Indexed by name of subdivision. C.H.

LIST OF LOT OWNERS OF TAKOMA PARK MADE BY THOMAS WATERS, 1893. Indexed. C.H.

BONDS, 1839-42. Record of bonds of constables, treasurers of school fund and collectors of the tax. C.H.

MONTGOMERY COUNTY COURT HOUSE BUILDING COMMITTEE, 1923-31. Record of proceedings of the Committee, including proposal to authorize bond issue for courthouse and jail, specifications and contracts. C.H. 1923-31. H.R. 1923-31, microfilm.

TAX SALE PLATS, scattered dates, 1907-22. C.H.

COUNTY TAX LEDGERS, 1819-25, 1831. H.R.

PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY

Records

Prince George's County is unique among Southern Maryland counties in that it has preserved almost complete series of records. There was never a fire in the courthouse, and the British troops who passed through after burning Washington in 1814 are said to have respected everything in the village but the poultry and other edible domestic animals.

None of the records of Prince George's County has been published at this writing but Liber A of the Court Proceedings is now being prepared for publication under the joint auspices of the Maryland Hall of Records Commission and the Littleton Griswold Committee of the American Historical Association.

Note

In the first volume of this work I noted that on June 28, 1698 the Court adjourned to the new (first) courthouse (p. 118). I assumed that the courthouse was finished and it may have been, but the evidence may persuade the reader otherwise. Here follows the story from the beginning.

On June 24, 1697, the justices entered into a contract with Robert Brothers carpenter to erect a frame building for 50,000 pounds of tobacco, half to be paid at the next levy, the other half the next year. At November Court 1697 the justices were busy with courthouse matters: David Small was paid for the five acres of ground for the courthouse and church, Thomas Addison was granted a fee for surveying the same two parcells of land and David Small was allowed a modest sum "for the use of his store to keep Court in." Apparently, the courthouse was only beginning and Robert Brothers was paid his one-half of 25,000 pounds of tobacco (Liber A, ff. 256-7).

Brothers seems to have accomplished little during the winter because of a "very Sick family" but he promised to get ahead with it. Thereupon the Court gave him until April 15 to "bring over the Frame of the Court house to Charles towne." On June 28 it was far enough along so that the court could meet in it. Brothers died sometime between March Court and May 10, 1699, the day his will was probated (Wills H, 253-4). He named Elisha Sedgewick as sole executor. In August the court summoned the said Sedgewick to appear at next Court "for makeing addition to the Court house." (P. G. Court Proceedings, Liber A, f. 459). "Additions" must have meant "finishing" for Sedgewick seemed to satisfy the justices at September Court that he would be responsible for "the Building and Finishing the Court house"; and they thereupon voted him 25,000 lbs. of tobacco as last payment. Apparently, this was only an order to be paid out of the next levy for at January Court 1699/1700 it was "Ordered that the Sherife pay noe More Tobacco to Brothers Executor til he ffinish the Court House." (Proceedings Liber B. f. 20). Sedgewick must have finished the work quietly and been quietly paid by the sheriff for no more is heard of it in the court. The next year, June Court 1701, it was "Ordered that Mr. Robt. Bradley agree with John Deavor to add a pent house to the Court house as he thinks meet and to return an acct of the agreement the next Court." (Court Proceedings, B. f. 117). But this seems to have been an afterthought.

When the first volume of this work was being written I could find no connection between Benjamin Henry Latrobe and the building of a courthouse at Upper Marlboro in spite of the

positive assertions to this effect by Hamlin and B. H. Latrobe, II. Since then the Maryland Historical Society has acquired the Latrobe Letter Books. A search of this fine collection coupled with the records of the Levy Court of Prince George's County has clarified the mystery.

In May 1813, the Levy Court of Prince George's County ordered that an advertisement be inserted in the *National Intelligencer* and the *Federal Republican* for proposals for repairing the front Wall to the Court House and the Arches in the public offices." (*Levy Court 1795-1818, Ms.* Hall of Records p. 461). On June 7 of the same year the Court ordered that a "skillful workman" be employed to examine the work required and to repair whatever appeared to be in need of it. The County's funds for this purpose were ordered to be entrusted to William B. Beane (*Ibid.*, 465).

Apparently, Latrobe, who was then living in Washington saw the advertisement in one or the other of the two newspapers in which it appeared. He was given the contract. His Letter Books throw some light on the sequence of events: On July 1, 1813 he orders Swedish bars from Patton & Butcher of Alexandria for the Levy Court. On July 7 he advises Beane that it will be impossible—"to put up the Bars at the Courthouse on the 13th. My part is done, but the castings will delay the business." Apparently, other things went wrong for the work is still not done on September 11 when he writes to Beane: "The Business of your Courthouse—I have to Request you to permit it to be finished by Mr. William Smith, the Bearer."

It seems clear therefore that Latrobe's work on the courthouse in Upper Marlboro had to do only with the repair of the wall and the arches as described above and that Smith finished the job for him. It cannot be proved, but it would be heartening to think that the repairs of the courthouse were undertaken in order better to accommodate the records of the State which had been removed to Upper Marlboro in order to avoid the flaming pyre which everyone thought the British would make of Annapolis. There is only this minute of the Levy Court to substantiate this hypothesis:

"It being stated to this court that many of the public Records and papers of the State have been by direction of the Governor and Council removed to the town of Upper Marlboro and deposited in a wooden building which is not deemed sufficiently safe and the Court being applied to to grant permission for the removal of said Records and papers to the Court House It is by the Court determined that the said Records and papers may be removed to the Court House and deposited in the Court Room or any other Room in the House in such manner as William B. Beane and John Reed Magruder shall direct." (*Op. cit.*, 468).

What a lesson for archivists! The state removed its records from threatened Annapolis to safe Upper Marlboro. The British bypassed Annapolis to burn Washington. Their route took them through Upper Marlboro which they ignored!

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1696--. Also includes Court Records, 1696-99, 1705-10. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1696--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1696-1789; 1696-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1696--. Campbell, 1696-1884. Cottco Universal, 1884--. C.H. 1696--. L.O. 1840-84, microfilm. H.R. 1696-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1696-1868. Liber index. H.R.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1716-21. See also Land Records. Indexed. H.R.

PLAT BOOKS (PLAT RECORDS), 1883--. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1931--. C.H.

PLAT OF CARROLLSBURG AND RECORD OF DEEDS OF INCORPORATION, 1770. Plat of divisions and subdivisions of town of Carrollsburg. Also contains record of incorporation of Waverly Literary Society, 1854. C.H.

MINUTES [ROUGH MINUTES], 1815, 1830-34, 1837-38, 1840-42, 1844-45, 1852-55, 1857-61, 1863-67, 1871-96, 1899-1900, 1910-17, 1919--. See also Court Proceedings and Dockets. C.H. 1933--. H.R. 1815-1933.

COURT RECORDS (JUDGMENTS), 1699-1758, 1761-88, 1790-1820, 1823-38, 1840-46. 1696-99, 1705-10 in Land Records. Most volumes indexed. H.R.

SHORT ENTRIES OF JUDGMENTS, 1818-25, 1840-43, 1856-57. Each volume indexed, 1818-25. H.R.

INDEX TO COURT RECORDS, 1858-61. H.R.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1862-1924. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

DOCKETS (OFFICE DOCKETS), 1722-23, 1725-27, 1730-32, 1734, 1736-43, 1745-47, 1749-51, 1758, 1760-62, 1766, 1772-81, 1784-1819, 1821, 1829-68, 1870--. Also contain Court Minutes, 1795-1868. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1870--. H.R. 1722-1868.

STET DOCKET, 1892--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

REFERENCE DOCKET, 1913. Indexed. C.H.

JUDICIAL DOCKETS, 1863--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

RECOGNIZANCE DOCKET [RECOGNIZANCE RECORD], 1927--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CONFESSED JUDGMENTS AND 40 DAY CASES, 1928--. Record of judgments rendered by circuit court taken or passed within 40 days after entry of judgment under the Speedy Judgment Act. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

BOND RECORDS, 1919--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1820--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant, 1865--. C.H.

RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. 1820-1908 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO EQUITY RECORDS, 1852--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1852--. C.H. 1868--. H.R. 1852-68.

INDEX TO EQUITY DOCKET, 1852-1903. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

EQUITY AND COMMISSION DOCKET, 1803-94. Brief record of proceedings in equity and record of commissions to divide estates in equity. Indexed by names of petitioner and commissioners, 1803-42. C.H.

RECORD OF DISCHARGES, INSOLVENT ACT OF APRIL 1787, 1787-91. H.R.

DECLARATIONS [Naturalization], 1929-40. Indexed. C.H.

PETITIONS [Naturalization], 1927--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1904-26. C.H.

INCORPORATIONS, 1901--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1777-1886. C.H. 1777-1886. H.R. 1777-1886 with card index.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865-67. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. H.R.

MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1886--. Indexed by name of male and female. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-67. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-66. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

ELECTION RETURNS No. 1, 1897--. C.H. 1928--. H.R. 1897-1928.

AFFIDAVITS OF RESIDENCE, 1900-09. Indexed. H.R.

REGISTRATION APPEALS, 1891. H.R.

TEST BOOKS, 1805--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1907--. H.R. 1805-1907.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1820-52. H.R.

MANUMISSION RECORD, 1806-29. H.R.

SLAVE STATISTICS, 1867-69. Each volume indexed by name of owner. H.R.

LEVY BOOKS, 1734-1808. H.R.

TOBACCO INSPECTION RECORDS, 1781-1802, 1818-38. H.R.

TAX COLLECTOR'S LEDGER, 1780-95. H.R.

FEE BOOKS, 1818, 1829-32, 1834-53, 1855-57, 1859-62, 1864, 1868-74, 1877-78, 1881-1900. Most volumes indexed. H.R.

LICENSE RECORDS (LICENSES, STAMPS, ETC., LICENSES GRANTED), 1835-59, 1861-1925. H.R.

H. C. SCOTT AND CO. (H. C. & P. E. SCOTT), JOURNALS, 1826-47, 1857-62; Ledgers, 1826-45; Letter Book, 1849-55. H.R.

MICHAEL B. CARROLL, JOURNAL, 1842-52; Ledger, 1842-47. H.R.

DR. EDWARD L. SHEEHY, LEDGER, 1851-71. H.R.

HALL AND ANDERSON, LEDGER, 1857-62. H.R.

G. H. HALL, DAY BOOKS, 1863-64, 1867-71; Ledger, 1858-68. H.R.

JOHN T. AND RICHARD HARDESTY, LEDGER, 1871-79. H.R.

INN ACCOUNTS, 1865-67. H.R.

J. M. TINKER, LEDGER, 1884-85. H.R.

THOMAS CLAGETT OF W., DAY BOOK, 1884-85; Ledger, 1882-85. H.R.

EUGENE ROBINSON, LEDGER, 1900-01. H.R.

[J. E. SMITH(?) LUMBER COMPANY, LEDGER], 1910-17. H.R.

WILSON BARRETT COMPANY, COAL DELIVERY RECORD, 1924-25. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1803--. Include Law Papers, 1805--; Equity Papers, 1803--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1802-12, 1824--. Also contains Guardian Bonds, Releases and Indentures, 1824-28. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1802--. H.R. 1802-1954, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1810--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1698--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1698-1854, microfilm; 1833--. H.R. 1698-1833; 1833-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1698--. Campbell. C.H. 1698--. H.R. 1698-1948, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1698-1807, 1824--. 1758-83 in Inventories. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1698-1799, microfilm; 1799--. H.R. 1698-1799; 1799-1850, microfilm.

INVENTORIES, 1697--. Liber T No. 1, 1763-77, also contains Administration Bonds, 1758-83. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1697-1795, microfilm; 1792--. H.R. 1697-1795; 1792-1953, microfilm.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES, 1697--. Campbell. C.H. 1697--. H.R. 1697-1948, microfilm.

ACCOUNTS, 1698-1726, 1747--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1698-1795, microfilm; 1789--. H.R. 1698-1795; 1789-1954, microfilm.

INDEX TO EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ACCOUNTS, 1698--. Campbell. C.H. 1698--. H.R. 1698-1948.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1703-79. Record of bonds to pay orphans their respective portions of balances of estates transmitted to the County Court by the Commissary General. Indexed. H.R.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1791--. 1824-28 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1791--. H.R. 1791-1857, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1789-96, 1808--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1789-1858, microfilm.

GUARDIAN DOCKET, 1829-89, 1891, 1893, 1914--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1829--. 1824-28 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1896-1932. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1868--. Indexed. C.H.

ACCOUNTS AGAINST DECEASED ESTATES [CLAIMS], 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ESTIMATES [ANNUAL VALUATIONS], 1829-81. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1696--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1697-1789, 1799 with card index.

Administration Bonds. C.H. 1789-1845. H.R. 1696-1789 with card index.

Inventories. C.H. 1787-1845. H.R. 1697-1787, 1793 with card index.

Administration Accounts. C.H. 1792-93, 1797-1857. H.R. 1723-24, 1735-40, 1782, 1789 with card index.

Guardian Bonds. C.H. 1796-1895.

Guardian Accounts. C.H. 1800-76.

Petitions. C.H. 1792-1884.

Receipts. C.H. 1776-1875.

Estimations and Distributions. C.H. 1798-1873.

Indentures. C.H. 1797-1817.

Old Administrations. C.H. 1845-67.

Administration Papers. C.H. 1858--.

County Commissioners

MINUTES AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT AND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1795-1818, 1837-53, 1866-72, 1882-92, 1898--. See also Rough Minutes. C.H. 1928--. H.R. 1795-1928.

ROUGH MINUTES OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1855-66, 1888-95, 1898. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF TAX, 1813-30. H.R.

LEVY LISTS (LEVY BOOKS), 1800-05, 1808-11, 1813-15, 1817, 1819-30, 1834-40, 1843-46, 1848-75, 1878-79, 1884, 1886-1952. C.H. 1888-1952. H.R. 1800-1887.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS (ASSESSMENTS), 1793-94, 1796, 1800-04, 1806-42, 1844-45, 1847, 1850, 1861-62, 1864-68, 1871, 1876, 1888--. (Incomplete.) Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H. 1910--. H.R. 1793-1909.

TRANSFER BOOKS, 1849, 1901-41. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1901-41. H.R. 1849.

RETURN BOOK FOR SECOND ASSESSMENT DISTRICT, c. 1866. H.R.

ASSESSMENT OF LOTS IN HUNTINGTON, 1874. H.R.

TAX COLLECTORS BOOKS, 1823, 1845-46, 1872-75, 1877. H.R.

TAX COLLECTORS DAY BOOK, 1876-80, 1903. H.R.

TREASURER'S LEDGER, 1866-97, 1910-12, 1942-53. C.H. 1886-1953. H.R. 1866-85.

LEVY OF TREASURER'S OFFICE, 1876, 1878. H.R.

TAX SALE JOURNAL, 1893-94, 1922. H.R.

ROAD RECORDS, 1828. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE ROAD COMMISSIONERS (MINUTES OF THE HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS, MINUTES OF THE ROAD DIRECTORS), 1900-02, 1906-09, 1916-33. C.H. 1906-09. H.R. 1900-02, 1916-33.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF ALMSHOUSE TRUSTEES, 1893-1919. H.R.

SCHOOL PROCEEDINGS OF ORPHANS COURT, 1826-66. Record of proceedings of the Orphans' Court acting in place of the school commissioners as authorized by Chapter 157, Acts of 1825. H.R.

SCHOOL COMMISSIONERS, LEDGER B, COLORED, 1883-98. H.R.

LIST OF LICENSES AND STAMPED PAPER SOLD, 1846-51. H.R.

LIST OF REGISTERED VOTERS, 1868-69. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF LIQUOR LICENSES, 1912-17. H.R.

COURTHOUSE BUILDING ACCOUNTS, 1880-81. H.R.

COUNTY EXPENSES, 1877. H.R.

PHILEMON CHEW'S BANK BOOK, 1818-45. H.R.

MORDECAI R. STAMPS LEDGERS, 1867-71. Each volume indexed. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE MARLBORO LODGE, No. 156, OF MASONS, 1871-74. H.R.

Queenstown, Queen Anne's County, reputed Jail of 1709.

QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY

Records

With the exception of some gaps in the court proceedings, the records of Queen Anne's County are almost intact. It was an extremely rich collection when listed by Louis Dow Scisco and many records have since been discovered in the attic where Scisco was advised there were none stored. His list is, therefore, not altogether accurate, nor are his courthouse dates. (*Md. Hist. Mag.* XXIV, 224-228).

Note

That the courthouse at Queenstown was in use in 1710 has been positively proved. It is now possible to give what appears to be the exact date of completion. Benjamin Mifflin in his diary of August 4, 1762 notes: "arrived at Queens Town 7 miles . . . there are about 5 or 6 Dwelling Houses in it besides the Prison & Court House Built as appears by the Date in the Gable End in 1708." (*Journal of Benjamin Mifflin,* New York Public Library, 1935, p. 14). It may be assumed further from this note that the courthouse, or at least the gable end, was of brick.

It may be recalled that there was some problem about title to the property in Queenstown on which the courthouse and jail had been built. In 1710 (Ch. 7) the General Assembly confirmed the purchase and ordered that the former owners be recompensed. As a result of this order Mrs. Elizabeth Coursey was paid 1,100 lbs. of tobacco for the courthouse and church land. (*Queen Anne's County Court Proceedings,* November Court 1710. p. 126).

The subsequent history of the courthouse before the County seat was moved to Centreville in the 1780's is still mysterious. An Act of the General Assembly of 1749 (Ch. 10) sheds only a little light on the 2 acres of land occupied by the public buildings. This Act authorized the justices of the county to sell the old prison for whatever it would bring and have it removed from the public land. There proved to be no takers so the following year they were empowered to sell the building and the ¼ acre of land on which it stood (Acts 1750, Ch. 16). The buyer in 1751, was Henry Jacobs (*Queen Anne's County Land Records, R. T. No. D.* f. 3, *Ms.* Hall of Records). The persons to whom the Commissioners sold the rest of the public land, in 1792, are known: Charles Frazier, William Coursey, John Sayer Blake and perhaps Richard Wilson (*Queen Anne's County Land Records, S. T. W.* No. 2. ff. 196, 207, 209, *Ms.* Hall of Records).

I noted in Volume I that the Courthouse at Centreville was "completed at least by 1794." This has now proved to be erroneous. Among the many records found in the attic of the courthouse preceding and during the remodeling of 1961-62 was the Minutes of the Court for June 1, 1796 where it is noted that "The Commissioners appointed for building a Court House & gaol in Queen Anne's County, having represented to the Court that the new Court House for the said County at Centre Ville was compleated and finished—It is ordered that the same be received, and as such taken, held and deemed to be the proper Court House of Queen Anne's County."

Since the appearance of Volume I, the courthouse has been remodelled and enlarged radically. It now boasts the first underground vault to be built for the records of any Clerk of the Court in Maryland. The architect and engineer was Thomas B. Bourne Associates, Inc. of

Washington, D. C., the builder J. Roland Dashiell & Sons of Salisbury. This work was paid for by a bond issue of $125,000 authorized by Ch. 550 Acts of 1961 and matching federal funds.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1707--. Liber R.T. No. 3, 1781-83, also contains Land Commissions, 1769-1801. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1707-88, 1818--; 1788-1818, microfilm. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1707-1818; 1707-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1707--. Liber index, 1707-1873; Campbell, 1852--. Grantors and Grantees in separate volumes. C.H. 1707--. L.O. 1707-1945. H.R. 1707-1873, 1707-1945, microfilm.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1723-1801, 1810-34, 1836-43. 1716-19, 1756-68 in Judgments; 1769-1801 in Land Records. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1810-43. H.R. 1723-1801; 1810-43, microfilm.

PLATS, 1949--. Most plats recorded in Land Records; only oversize plats are included in this record. C.H.

PLAT BOOK, STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

MINUTE BOOKS (MINUTES), 1787-92, 1799-1803, 1806-49. See also Rough Minutes and Criminal Dockets. H.R.

ROUGH MINUTES (MINUTES, MINUTE BOOKS), 1734, 1787-94, 1796, 1798-1800, 1802-19, 1822, 1846, 1909-10. H.R.

JUDGMENTS (CIVIL JUDICIAL RECORDS, JUDICIAL RECORDS), 1709-19, 1728-69, 1771-80, 1810-36. Each volume indexed, 1810-36. H.R.

DOCKETS (COMMON PLEAS, APPEARANCE AND JUDICIAL DOCKETS, ORIGINAL AND JUDICIAL DOCKETS), 1737, 1739, 1741-42, 1751, 1753, 1755, 1759, 1766, 1770, 1772-79, 1782-85, 1787-88, 1790-1807. See also Trial Dockets. Most volumes indexed. H.R.

IMPARLANCE DOCKETS, 1791, 1796-98, 1802-04, 1806, 1809, 1816. See also Dockets. H.R.

TRIAL DOCKETS, 1805, 1830--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1830-44, 1846--. H.R. 1805, 1845.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS (CRIMINAL DOCKET), 1751-66, 1810, 1816-31, 1852-55. H.R.

CRIMINAL ALPHABET, 1832-54. Index to criminal cases. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CRIMINAL DOCKETS (SESSIONS), 1770-72, 1774-1777, 1779, 1782, 1785, 1787-1805, 1808-12, 1814-20, 1860. Also contains Minutes, 1770-72, 1774-75, 1777, 1779, 1782, 1787. Most volumes indexed. H.R.

JUDICIAL DOCKETS (EXECUTION RECORDS), 1816-61, 1863-1905, 1907--. Earlier judicials in Dockets. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1851--. H.R. 1816-51.

ALPHABET TO JUDICIAL DOCKETS, 1832-48. Indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

COURT RECORDS, 1810. Record of cases transferred from Eastern Shore General Court. H.R.

DOCKET OF CASES TRANSFERRED [FROM EASTERN SHORE GENERAL COURT], c.1806. H.R.

SUPERSEDEAS, 1820-74. Indexed by name of defendant, 1860-74. C.H.

INQUISITIONS, RECOGNIZANCES, INSOLVENCIES, CERTIFICATES OF OATHS OF FIDELITY, 1775-91. H.R.

CHANCERY RECORDS (JUDGMENTS IN EXTENSO, JUDGMENT RECORDS), 1825--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF DECREES IN DIVORCE CASES, 1908--. Indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1824--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1885--. Indexed. C.H.

TRUSTEES RELEASES, 1865--. 1825-64 in Chancery Records. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1930--. C.H.

PETITIONS [Naturalization], 1930--. C.H.

CHARTERS (CHARTERS AND ACTS OF INCORPORATION), 1869--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES (MARRIAGE APPLICATIONS), 1817-58, 1864-71, 1887-97. C.H. 1817-71, 1890-97. H.R. 1887-90; 1817-90, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1866-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H. 1866-86. H.R. 1866-86, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1886-1908. Combined Campbell index and record. C.H. 1886-1908. H.R. 1886-1908, microfilm.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1908--. Includes applications and ministers' returns or clerk's certificate of ministers' returns. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-81. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

GENERAL ELECTIONS, 1907--. C.H.

PRIMARY ELECTIONS, 1910--. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1903--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

POLL BOOKS, 1861, 1888-92. (Incomplete.) H.R.

COMMISSION BOOKS, 1848-76, 1884--. Record of commissions issued to county officials. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1884--. H.R. 1848-76.

TEST BOOKS, 1824--. C.H. 1840. H.R. 1824-44.

BONDS (BOND BOOKS), 1778--. Record of bonds of county officials. Also contains Census of 1778; Oaths of Fidelity, 1778-80. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1835--. H.R. 1778-1835.

INDENTURE RECORDS, 1771-1880. C.H.

MANUMISSION RECORDS, 1828-64. Each volume indexed by name of Negro. H.R.

FEE BOOKS, 1803, 1805, 1818-19, 1823-24, 1827, 1848. Some volumes indexed. H.R.

LICENSE RECORDS (RETAILERS OF DRY GOODS, TRADERS AND OYSTER LICENSE RECORDS), 1822-28, 1851-60, 1862-66, 1877-94. H.R.

SUBPOENA DOCKETS, 1808-19. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1775--. Include Law Papers, 1775--; Equity Papers, 1837--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1778-91, 1799--. C.H. 1799--. H.R. 1778-91, 1799-1954, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION KEY, 1794--. Indexed 1835--. C.H.

PETITIONS AND ORDERS, 1870--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1706--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1791--. H.R. 1706-1791; 1791-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1706--. Campbell. C.H. 1706--. H.R. 1706-1947, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1774--. Also includes Guardian Bonds, 1924-31. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1774-1790.

RENUNCIATIONS, APPLICATION AND APPOINTMENT OF ADMINISTRATORS AND EXECUTORS, 1901-04. 1904-- in Administration Accounts. Indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1739-50, 1774-1865, 1868-70, 1874-89, 1892--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1791--. H.R. 1739-91; 1791-1950, microfilm.

ACCOUNT OF SALES, 1823--. Includes sales of real estate, 1929--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1823--. H.R. 1823-1941, microfilm.

RECORD OF SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1889-1928. 1929-- in Account of Sales. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1741--. Also includes Letters Testamentary, 1904--; Dividends, 1916--; Guardian Accounts, 1925-32; Distributions, 1912--; Renunciations, 1904--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1741-1790; 1790-1952, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778--. 1924-31 in Administration Bonds. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1798--. H.R. 1778-98; 1798-1924, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1784-1873, 1880--. 1925-32 in Administration Accounts. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1800--. H.R. 1784-1799; 1800-1927, microfilm.

GUARDIAN KEY (GENERAL INDEX TO GUARDIAN RECORDS), 1779--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RELEASES, 1833--. Each volume indexed by name of deceased and releasor except volume dated 1874-83. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET (CLAIMS AGAINST DECEASED PERSONS ESTATES), 1857--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1874--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1815-61, 1881-1914. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. H.R.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1807-63. Each volume indexed by name of Negro. H.R.

DIVIDENDS, 1885-1915. 1916-- in Administration Accounts. Records of distributions in insolvent estates. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1667--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. H.R. 1667-1704. Wills of residents of that part of Kent County that was included in Queen Anne's upon its creation in 1706.

Wills. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1707-88.

Administration Papers. C.H. 1797--. H.R. 1707-1797.

Guardian Papers. C.H. 1779--.

Indentures. H.R. 1796-1925.

Miscellaneous Papers include commissions, bonds letters, petitions, orders, school commissioners reports, etc. C.H. 1880--. H.R. 1754-1880.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION PAPERS, 1707-1854. C.H.

County Commissioners

ROUGH MINUTES OF THE LEVY COURT, 1817, 1826-28, 1831. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT, 1836-46. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1861--. C.H. 1878--. H.R. 1861-1878.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF TAX (MINUTE BOOKS), 1808-09, 1819-22. H.R.

LEVY LISTS, 1726-67, 1786-1853, 1868-75, 1877-78, 1880-87, 1889-91, 1893. (Incomplete.) H.R.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS (ASSESSMENT RECORDS), 1824, 1841, c.1885, c.1895, c.1900. (Incomplete.) H.R.

ASSESSMENT, 1922--. Card record. C.H.

ASSESSMENT OF VESSELS, PLATE AND WATCHES, 1853-58. H.R.

ASSESSMENT LISTS FOR CENTREVILLE, 1820-60. Original lists. H.R.

ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS, c.1841, c.1865. H.R.

ABATEMENT BOOK (ABATEMENTS & TRANSFERS), 1841-50, 1860-67. H.R.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF ASSESSABLE PROPERTY, 1848-49. H.R.

STATE TAX BOOK, 1843. H.R.

RECORD OF TAX COLLECTORS, 1870-97. Collectors account of levy. C.H.

RECORD OF TAXES COLLECTED (LEDGER), 1894, 1898. H.R.

TAX SALES RECORD, 1935--. Record of property sold for taxes. C.H.

ROAD RECORD, 1856-95, 1898-1906. Record of petitions for roads and improvements. Each volume indexed by name of road. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF JOINT MEETINGS OF KENT AND QUEEN ANNE'S COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1890-94. Relate to bridges and other joint county projects. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE POOR, 1789-1891, 1916-43. H.R.

TREASURERS ACCOUNTS (TRUSTEES OF THE POOR), 1809-21, 1828-39, 1853-80. H.R.

ALMSHOUSE ACCOUNTS (TRUSTEES OF THE POOR), 1828-30, 1847-59, 1876-1952. H.R.

PAYMENTS OF MONIED PENSIONERS (TRUSTEES OF THE POOR), 1885-1941. H.R.

ACCOUNTS WITH TAX COLLECTORS (TRUSTEES OF THE POOR), 1872-99. H.R.

ST. MARY'S COUNTY

Records

The first loss of St. Mary's County records of which we have any evidence occurred in 1768, when several dockets and original papers of the court which were being kept in the home of Owen Allen, the Deputy Clerk, were burned. The General Assembly provided the means for reconstituting these records but whether it was done or not is now purely academic, since every surviving court record of this period was burned in the fire of March 8, 1831, or was lost before that time.[1]

This was surely the most disastrous fire so far as records are concerned in Maryland history. St. Mary's was not only the first county to be erected in the State but, for part of its history, its government was closely related with that of the infant province. It is because of this loss that so much of the early history of the province must be conjecture and speculation. One must wonder why it was not possible for the "large concourse of citizens" who gathered at the fire to save something more than they did. Of the records of the clerk of court only a single marriage record and one volume of land records, the next to current one at the time of the fire, escaped.[2] The General Assembly of 1831 provided for the re-recording of deeds, but what is found in this one volume is only a pitiful suggestion of what was lost.[3] Of the records of the levy court and of the other administrative agencies of the county not a page was saved.

The register of wills fared somewhat better. All the papers were lost. The recorded Wills seem to be complete. The Accounts were in small part preserved for the colonial period, and in full after 1798. The Inventories of the colonial period were a total loss, but are complete after 1795. The Proceedings of the Orphans' Court prior to 1807 were lost (but see below). All the other records series are found only after the Revolutionary period. The division date between saved and lost records seems to indicate that at some time before the fire the older records had been moved out of the Register's office, perhaps to the attic, and were lost. Only the indispensable wills were kept handy.

The first volume of Orphans' Court Proceedings, which had long been considered a victim of the fire, has recently appeared in private hands. This volume was loaned to the Hall of Records for microfilming and thereafter returned to the anonymous owner. Several volumes of assessments dating from the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries have also reappeared in the same fashion, and the Hall of Records now has microfilm copies. These recent rediscoveries give hope that from time to time other "lost records" will come to light.[4] It should be noted, too, that the Hall of Records in recent years has been collecting land records of the burnt-out period from the owners of collections of family papers. In time these fugitive papers should form a welcome supplement to the surviving land-record volumes. It will be recalled that the land record abstract system was begun in 1784. Of the St. Mary's County abstracts of deeds the following have been preserved in the Land Office and in microfilm copies at the Hall of Records: 1796-1818: Index 1796-1873.

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[1] Ch. III, Acts of 1768.

[2] For some reason, Louis D. Scisco ignores the one volume of land records which was saved. See "Colonial Records of St. Mary's County," *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXVI, 58-59.

[3] Ch. 175.

[4] Is it possible that these fugitive records were not burned but "lost" much later at the razing of the courthouse in 1901? I quote from an article of recent date by Thomas E. Stokel who quotes a clipping found among his grandfather's papers: "In tearing down the Court House many old private papers were unearthed and thrown out in the yard. . . . One of these books was picked up by our reporter."

Note

The State House at St. Mary's City, abandoned by the State to St. Mary's County when the capital was removed to Annapolis, was begun in 1674 as I noted under the illustration of the replica. Perhaps I should have made it clearer that the date of completion was, by contract, October 31, 1676 and we are quite certain it was not finished by that time. As a matter of fact it is questionable whether John Quigley really ever completed it properly.

The subsequent history of this building is confusing. I pointed out that it was given to the county to be used as a courthouse in 1695. It was so used at least into 1698. Thereafter, there is only silence until 1708 when the General Assembly noted that the public buildings had been diverted from the use for which they were intended, and the county was given permission, probably *ex post facto*, to establish the seat of government at Shepherd's Old Fields. It was also ordered that the public buildings and land be sold, but from what follows it is plain this was not done. In 1710, the justices of the county were authorized to remove the records from St. Mary's City.

After 1710 there is no word until 1720. In that year an Act was passed (Ch. 4) for the "Vesting in the Rector and Vestry of William and Mary Parish in Saint Maries County and their Governors an Estate in fee simple in the old Stadt house in Saint Maries City in Saint Maries County and the Lott of Land whereon the same stands for the use of the said Parish forever." (*Arch. of Md.* XXXVIII, pp. 262-63).

It is probable that the state house had been abandoned for the decade before the passage of this Act, and however bad its condition in 1710, it must have been worse in 1720. In any case the Vestry met on May 23, 1720 at Poplar Hill Church and "Then Agreed with Josh: Doyne and Francis Hopewell to Repair the State House. As Mentioned in an Agreement under hand & Seal. As also a Bond of Performance. And further say not" (Original minutes at the Maryland Historical Society brought to my attention by John D. Kilbourne, Assistant to the Director. It will be noted that this same Joshua Doyne built the courthouse in Charles County which was finished in 1727).

According to Forman the converted State House was called St. Mary's Church (*Jamestown and St. Mary's*, p. 291-92). The same scholar thought that it was used for this purpose "for over a century." (*loc. cit.*). But perhaps not continuously. A correspondent in the *National Intelligencer* for August 28, 1824 writes: "The edifice still stands, but is in a very ruinous state, and is sometimes used as an Episcopal Church, and is called St. Mary's Church." Dr. Forman seems to be of two minds about the end of the building. First he says "in 1829 the decrepit structure was torn down in order to construct with its bricks a new chapel, the Trinity Episcopal Church, . . ." He then quotes J. P. Kennedy, *Rob of the Bowl* as follows: "The mouldering and shapeless ruin of the ancient State House, whose venerable remains, . . . have been pillaged, to furnish building materials for an unsightly church, . . ." At least part of the building was then still standing when Kennedy wrote in 1838.

Forman also quotes the Report of the Maryland Tercentenary Commission (1935): "The State House was destroyed by fire in the early 19th Century." An examination of the archives of this commission now in the custody of the Hall of Records produced no substantiating evidence of a fire except the statement quoted by Forman. When Forman made his investigation in the 1930's, nothing of the original building remained above ground. What precisely happened during those hundred years of disuse?

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1781--. Includes Mortgage Records, 1781-1922. Original volumes predating 1827 were destroyed in the Courthouse fire of 1831. Under the provisions of Chapter 175

of the Acts of 1831, persons possessing the originals of conveyances that had been recorded in the destroyed volumes were authorized to have such conveyances rerecorded. Liber A No. 1, 1781-1831, is composed entirely of such rerecordings. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1781--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1781-1851, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1781-1954. Campbell. C.H. 1781-1954. L.O. 1781-1945, microfilm. H.R. 1781-1907, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1930--. Cottco Universal. Grantors and grantees in separate volumes. C.H.

ABSTRACTS OF DEEDS, 1796-1845, 1863-1949. L.O. 1796-1902. H.R. 1902-49, 1796-1825, microfilm.

INDEX TO [ABSTRACTS OF] DEEDS, 1796-1949. L.O. 1796-1949. H.R. 1796-1873, microfilm.

MORTGAGE RECORDS, 1922--. Earlier records in Land Records. C.H.

LAND COMMISSION RECORDS, 1804-84. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TAX SALE RECORD, 1921--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, 1950--. Earlier plats in Land Records. C.H.

INDEX TO PLATS IN LAND RECORDS, 1878-1950. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAT BOOKS, 1950--. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

COURT MINUTES, 1924--. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1802-43. C.H.

COURT DOCKETS, 1828-29, 1832-35, 1837, 1840-41, 1844, 1847-48, 1850, 1852, 1857, 1859-62, 1866, 1868--. C.H.

EXECUTION RECORD LAND SOLD (EXECUTION RECORD LAND SOLD UNDER JUDGMENT, JUDGMENT RECORD), 1864--. C.H.

BOND RECORD, 1930--. Indexed. C.H.

PETITION DOCKET [COMMISSION DOCKET], 1811--. Brief record of miscellaneous petitions relating to division of land, condemnation of land for roads, establishment of boundaries, registration and disqualification of voters, etc. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY RECORDS (DECREE RECORDS), 1815--. Some volumes indexed. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREE RECORD, 1910--. 1865-1910 in Equity Docket. Indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKETS, 1836--. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1880-97. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1907-17. By order of court dated September 30, 1918, the Circuit Court decreed that thereafter it would cease to be a tribunal for U. S. Naturalizations. Indexed. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD [Naturalization], 1908-17. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1908-17. C.H.

RELIGIOUS CORPORATIONS, 1816-20. C.H.

CORPORATION RECORDS, 1868--. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES (MARRIAGE RECORD), 1794-1886. Transcript of first volume dated 1796-1864 is indexed by name of male only. Volume for 1864-73 is combined liber index and record. Volume for 1871-86 gives detailed information about parties taking out license and date marriage was performed. C.H.

MARRIAGE RECORD, 1865-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

MARRIAGE RECORD (RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES), 1886-1959. Combined Campbell index and record. C.H.

INDEX AND RECORD MARRIAGES, 1960--. Combined Cottco Universal index and record. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886--. Also includes Clerk's certificates of ministers' returns beginning June 1, 1937. C.H.

RECORD OF ELECTION RETURNS, 1896--. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS [OF TEMPORARY REMOVAL], 1901-39. Indexed. C.H.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS, 1886--. C.H.

TEST BOOKS (QUALIFICATION OF OFFICERS), 1852-57, 1866-74, 1887--. C.H.

SURVEYORS RECORD BOOKS, 1841-73. Private survey notes of Benjamin Tippett bequeathed to the County in his will. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ALIENATIONS AND TRANSFERS, 1786-1829. List of alienations and transfers of property used in revising assessment records. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1863--. Law Papers, 1889--, and Equity Papers, 1863--, are filed in Clerk's record vault and easily accessible. The early papers are stored in the basement under the jail and are not readily available. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1777--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1801--. H.R. 1777-1949, microfilm. Note. The original of Liber J.F. No. A, 1777-1801, is now in private hands. It was loaned anonymously through a third party to the Hall of Records for the purpose of microfilming.

ADMINISTRATION REFERENCE DOCKET (ESTATE DOCKET), 1808--. Each volume indexed, 1808-43, 1892--. C.H. 1808--. H.R. 1808-1937, microfilm.

WILLS, 1658--. Liber H.H. No. 1, 1776-77 also includes Accounts, 1674-1720. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1791--. H.R. 1658-1791; 1658-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1658--. Campbell. C.H. 1658--. H.R. 1658-1957, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS, 1799--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1799--. H.R. 1799-1852, microfilm.

INVENTORIES, 1795--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1859--. H.R. 1795-1859; 1795-1953, microfilm.

ACCOUNT OF SALES, 1827--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1798--. 1674-1720 in Wills. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1798--. H.R. 1798-1953, microfilm.

DISTRIBUTIONS, 1782-1826. 1827-- in Administration Accounts. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1782-1826. H.R. 1782-1826, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1779--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1779--. H.R. 1779-1862, microfilm.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1787--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian, 1787-1860; by name of ward, 1861--. C.H. 1787--. H.R. 1787-1860, microfilm.

GUARDIAN REFERENCE DOCKET, 1803-26, 1858--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

RECEIPTS, RELEASES AND POWERS OF ATTORNEY, 1826--. Each volume indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

CLAIM RECORD (CLAIM DOCKET), 1858--. Each volume indexed by name of claimant. C.H.

REAL ESTATE RECORD, 1866-1935. Each volume indexed. C.H.

EQUITY DOCKET, 1866-93. Indexed. C.H.

ANNUAL VALUATIONS (ANNUAL VALUATIONS OF REAL ESTATE, ANNUAL VALUATIONS AND INDENTURES), 1780-1808, 1826-1919. 1808-25 in Administration Accounts. Includes Indentures, 1794-1808. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1826-1919. H.R. 1780-1808.

INDENTURES, 1809-1908. 1794-1808 in Annual Valuations. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM (CERTIFICATES OF NEGROES), 1807-52. Each volume indexed by name of Negro. C.H.

COMMISSIONS, 1777-1834. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1791--. All probate papers for each estate filed together. C.H.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS (PROCEEDINGS OF LEVY COURT, ROUGH PROCEEDINGS, RECORD ROUGH MINUTES), 1876--. C.H.

MINUTE BOOK OF COMMISSIONERS OF TAX, 1815-21. C.H.

LEVY LISTS, 1807--. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1793-94, 1796, 1801, 1806, 1812, 1821-26. Original records are in private hands and were loaned anonymously through a third party to be microfilmed by the Hall of Records. H.R. 1793-1826, microfilm.

TAX ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1876--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H .

TAX COLLECTORS ACCOUNTS, 1878-81, 1886-1912. C.H.

ROAD RECORD, 1882-1928. Record of expenditures for roads. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SOMERSET COUNTY

Records

In spite of the many early moves of the courthouse of Somerset County, all of the oldest records seem to have been preserved with the exception of the papers and those of the administrative agencies. The list given by Scisco is perhaps the fullest among the older counties.[1]

This record of almost total preservation is all the more remarkable when it is considered that the fire of 1831 reduced the courthouse to a shambles. Court was in session at the time. Court was adjourned hastily and according to the newspaper account "no loss except the house was sustained, the books and papers having been removed. . . . Several of the adjacent houses in Princess Anne took fire, but they were preserved from destruction by the exertions of the citizens, assisted in a prompt and efficient manner by many of the colored population."[2]

Fortunately, according to Lankford, the records had "been removed" to the old Teackle Bank Building which had been acquired by the levy court in 1827. It burned too, in 1880, but there were no records in it then.

Note

In the first part of this study I failed to determine the exact date of the burning of the first courthouse at Princess Anne (p. 141). Lankford had given only the year, 1831. Internal evidence of one kind or another had led me to believe it was "late in October or early in November." A subsequent search of newspaper files revealed the date to be December 1. (*The American Chronicle and Commercial Daily Advertiser,* Dec. 12, 1831, p. 2, c. 2.)

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1665--. 1670-71, 1690-91, 1716-19 in Judicial Records. Also contains Court Proceedings, 1665-68, 1675-77, 1683-84, 1702-07, 1713-15, 1718-22; Births, Marriages and Burials, 1649-1701, 1712, 1714-15, 1718-22; Cattle Marks, 1666-1723. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1665--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1665-1790; 1665-1850, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1665-1876. Cott Family Name. Does not include Land Record Liber B½, 1668-70, or land records for 1670-71, 1690-91, 1716-19 found in Judicial Records. C.H. 1665-1876. L.O. 1665-1876, microfilm. H.R. 1665-1876, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1876-1940. Kines-Philbrick Index. This index is very similar to the Cott Key Table Index. C.H. 1876-1940. L.O. 1876-1931, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1940--. Cottco Universal. C.H.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1665--. Liber index. Land Record Liber B½, 1668-70 and land records for 1670-71, 1690-91, 1716-19 in Judicial Records are not included in this index. H.R.

LAND COMMISSIONS (mistitled "JUDICIAL RECORD"), 1717-21. 1721-- in Judicial Records. H.R.

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[1] Louis Dow Scisco, "Colonial Records of Somerset County." *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXII, 349-356.

[2] *The American Chronicle and Commercial Daily Advertiser,* Dec. 12, 1831, p. 2, c. 2.

PLAT BOOKS, 1940--. Other plats are in Land Records and are indexed in Index to Land Records (Grantees). C.H.

INDEX TO PLAT BOOKS, 1940--. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS, STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

COURT MINUTES (ROUGH MINUTES), 1804, 1813-15, 1833--. See also Judicial Records. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORD [COURT PROCEEDINGS], 1670-77, 1683-84, 1687-1816, 1818--. 1665-68, 1675-77, 1683-84, 1702-07, 1713-15, 1718-22 in Land Records. Also contains Land Records, 1670-71, 1690-91, 1716-18; Probate Proceedings 1690-91. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1848--. H.R. 1670-1848.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1805--. Plaintiffs and defendants indexed in separate volumes. C.H.

DOCKETS (COURT DOCKETS), 1802, 1806--. Civil and Criminal Dockets entered in separate volumes since 1950. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1900--. H.R. 1802-99.

DOCKET OF FINISHED CASES, 1846-60, 1866-70, 1872-1951. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1846-52, 1856-1951. H.R. 1852-56.

DOCKET OF STET CASES, 1913--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

JUDGMENT DOCKET OF THE MUTUAL FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, 1867-1901. Record of claims and confessed judgments against the Company. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SUPERSEDEAS RECORDS, 1800-07, 1817-20, 1827-59, 1883-96. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1831--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY RECORDS, 1853--. Plaintiffs and defendants indexed in separate volumes. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD OF DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAINTIFFS AND DEFENDANTS [Divorce], 1908-52. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1816--. C.H. 1827--. H.R. 1816-56.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1908--. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1882-1907. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1878-1907. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DEEDS, 1828-45. Record of deeds of insolvent estates which have been assigned by the Orphans' Court to trustees for liquidation of debts of the estate. C.H.

INSOLVENT BONDS, 1828-45. C.H.

BOOK OF CORPORATIONS, 1878--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOOK OF RELIGIOUS CORPORATIONS, 1886--. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1866-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

INDEX TO RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1866-86. Indexed by name of male only. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886-1937. C.H.

INDEX TO RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1886-1937. Alphabetical by initial letter of surname only. C.H.

INDEX AND RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1938-52. Combined Cottco Universal index and record. C.H.

MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1952--. Includes application for marriage license and clerk's certificate of minister's return. C.H.

INDEX TO MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1952--. Alphabetical by initial letter of surname only. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS OF APPLICANTS, MARRIAGE LICENSES (APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES), 1886-1952. 1952-- in Record of Marriage Licenses. C.H. 1938-52. H.R. 1886-1938.

AFFIDAVITS OF APPLICANTS, MARRIAGE LICENSES (APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES), 1886-1952. 1952-- in Record of Marriage Licenses. C.H. 1938-52. H.R. 1886-1938.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-94. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-77. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENT, 1902-49. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

AFFIDAVITS OF REMOVAL, 1901-42. Each volume indexed, 1902-42. H.R.

BONDS (BONDS AND CERTIFICATES), 1815-92, 1895--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1851--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1864-1909. H.R.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1821-64. H.R.

LIST OF VESSELS AND OWNERS, 1901. Record of vessels registered in Somerset County. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

SHERIFFS FEE BOOK, 1862-63. Indexed. H.R.

H. H. DASHIELL AND COMPANY, CASH BOOKS, 1862-77. H.R.

H. H. DASHIELL AND COMPANY, JOURNALS, 1865-73. H.R.

H. H. DASHIELL AND COMPANY, LEDGERS, 1864-75. Each volume indexed. H.R.

THE HAMBLEN BROTHERS COMPANY, PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANAGERS, 1883-84. H.R.

WILLIAM DONE, PETIT LEDGER, 1830-32. Indexed. H.R.

DONE, JONES AND COMPANY, JOURNAL, 1831-33. H.R.

WASHINGTON ACADEMY, MINUTES OF TRUSTEES, 1783-1910. H.R.

WASHINGTON ACADEMY, LEDGER, 1841-67. Receipts and expenditures of the trustees. Indexed. H.R.

WASHINGTON ACADEMY, ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1770, 1801, 1808, 1861-67. Includes certified copy of "An Act to Unite the Free Schools of Somerset and Worcester County's" (Chapter 12, Acts of September 1770); deed, Whittington King to Trustees, 1801; Fire Insurance Policy, 1808; Vouchers, 1861-67. H.R.

GENERAL LEDGER, [CLERK OF COURT], 1816-18. H.R.

BOOK OF ILLUSTRATION [ROAD RECORD], 1840. Record of proceedings in condemnation of land for road purposes. Each volume indexed by name of road. C.H.

OYSTER LOT RECORDS, 1890-1906. Earlier records in Land Records. Record of oyster lots taken up under the provisions of Chapter 269 of the Acts of 1890. Each volume indexed. H.R.

FIRST DISTRICT COURT DOCKET, 1838-45. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1722--. Include Law Papers, 1900--; Equity Papers, 1827--. Miscellaneous Court Papers, 1722-1900 with additional items dating to 1934. H.R.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1778-92, 1811--. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1811--. H.R. 1778-92; 1778-1938.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKET, 1829, 1831, 1833, 1839-41, 1843, 1845, 1857-1926. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

KEY TO ADMINISTRATIONS, 1855-1922. Indexed. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

WILLS, 1664--. Chronology erratic for colonial period. Liber E.B. No. 14 also contains Inventories, 1678-1725, and Accounts, 1723-29, 1738-45. Liber E. B. No. 1 also contains Inventories, 1777-79, and Administration Bonds, 1777-79. C.H. 1788--. H.R. 1664-1788; 1664-1950, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1664--. Liber index. C.H. 1664--. H.R. 1664-1948, microfilm.

BONDS (BOND BOOKS, BOND RECORDS), 1780--. Contains Administration Bonds (1777-79 in Wills) and Guardian Bonds (1778-90 in separate volume, see separate entry). Also includes Valuation of Lands, Indentures, Renunciations and Notices to Creditors, 1780-1890. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1780-89; 1780-1850, microfilm.

APPLICATION BOOK FOR ADMINISTRATION LETTERS, 1925--. Indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1726-30, 1779--. 1678-1725, 1777-79 in Wills. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1791--. H.R. 1726-91; 1726-1850, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1685--. 1723-29, 1738-45 in Wills. Chronology erratic for colonial period. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1777--. H.R. 1685-1776; 1685-1851, microfilm.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1685-1858. Liber index. C.H. 1685-1858. H.R. 1685-1858, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1778-90. Also contains Valuation of Lands. Indexed by name of ward. H.R.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1828--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1828--. H.R. 1828-50, microfilm.

KEY TO GUARDIANSHIPS, 1855-1913. Entries arranged alphabetically by name of ward. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1808-30, 1842--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REGISTER OF CLAIMS, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1866--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1865-1909. 1780-1864 in Bonds. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1664--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1664-1788.

Administration and Guardian Bonds. C.H. 1851-1908. H.R. 1801-50.

Inventories. C.H. 1862-1907. H.R. 1796-1861.

Administration Accounts. C.H. 1851-1907. H.R. 1751-1850.

Valuation of Real Estate. C.H. 1778-1907.

Administration Papers, includes Bonds, Inventories, Administration Accounts, etc. filed under name of decedent. C.H. 1908--.

Guardian Accounts. C.H. 1835--.

Receipts and Releases. C.H. 1857--.

Vouchers, Accounts of Profit, Commissions, etc. C.H. 1856--. H.R. 1778-1855.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT, 1827-40. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1840-45, 1856-68, 1879-85, 1896-1901, 1906-16, 1927--. C.H. 1931--. H.R. 1840-1931.

JOURNAL OF PROCEEDINGS OF COMMISSIONERS OF TAX, 1823-37. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND REVIEW, 1896-97. H.R.

LEVY LISTS, 1836-53, 1867-75, 1889-1914. H.R.

LEVY REGISTER, 1915--. Record of budget accounts showing amount allowed and amount expended. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1793-96, 1804, 1813-22, 1830--. (Incomplete.) Arranged alphabetically within each district, 1830--. C.H. 1866--. H.R. 1793-1896.

ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS (MINUTE BOOKS), 1817, 1840, 1852, 1866, 1876, 1885, 1896, 1926. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1852-1926. H.R. 1817-40.

GENERAL LEDGER, 1875-88, 1894-97, 1928-48, 1950--. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1888-1903, 1921--. Record of unpaid taxes and insolvencies allowed by Commissioners. C.H.

ROAD BOOKS, 1799-1853. Proceedings of Levy Court and County Commissioners, relating to roads. C.H.

BOOK OF PUBLIC ROADS IN SOMERSET COUNTY, 1841-53. Record of road construction and repairs. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE POOR, 1858-64. H.R.

VIEW OF COURT HOUSE, EASTON.

37

Easton, Talbot County, Courthouse of 1794.

TALBOT COUNTY

Records

Many of the records of Talbot County have been preserved, but unfortunately a great number have been lost.[1] The major series in the office of the Register of Wills are extant, either at the courthouse or at the Hall of Records in Annapolis. The land records are intact; but there are serious gaps in the records of the court and practically none of the early administrative records of the county have survived.

Sometime between 1936 and 1939 this writer witnessed the transfer of many court records from a wet basement room to the attic of the courthouse. When everything which would hold together had been removed, there remained on the floor a mass of wet pulp which had to be judged a total loss. Many of the records which were removed to the attic at that time have since come to the Hall of Records, and a major repair project has been under way for some years to save those parts of books which, while not total losses, are in some cases only token survivals. That other records have escaped to private hands and may be someday retrieved is evidenced by the fact that Tilghman used records which he stated were not in the possession of the County.[2]

Note

The writer is indebted to a reviewer of Volume I of this work, Henry Chandlee Forman (*Md. Hist. Mag.* Vol. 55, 246-49) for calling attention to the 1858 engraved map of Talbot County prepared by William H. Dilworth. In one corner there is a representation of the Courthouse. A good copy was made from the print in possession of the Maryland Historical Society and is here reproduced. From a study of this print and other evidence available to him, Mr. Forman, a resident of Talbot County and an expert in the history of Maryland architecture, had this to say about the so-called restoration of this same courthouse in 1958, exactly 100 years later: ". . . the old print proves that no 'restoration' was made to the façade in 1958, as claimed locally.

The print shows a front doorway to have had a large triumphal arch with keystone and imposts, not the triangular pediment placed there in 1958. The architects at that time also left off the original brick front gable with flattened oval window, replacing them with a wooden, windowless gable: and omitted the chimneys and balcony shown in the fine old print. In the 1959 remodelling, all the old partitions were moved to cater to office space demands, without regard to the original floor plan of the courthouse. Further, the erection of enormous, somewhat grotesque, two-story wings and arcades, made of a cheap grade of brick, were the direct cause of the destruction of a number of original eighteenth-century windows in the sides of the court structure. Is it too much to hope that in a second edition all these things which happened recently to the finest courthouse in the State will be duly entered?" They are herewith entered!

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[1] When these records were examined by Scisco he reported that the only court minutes to be preserved were those which had been recorded in books used also for recording of conveyances. He had not seen those in the basement. There were so few probate records that Scisco did not think it worthwhile to list them chronologically by series. As a matter of fact there are few losses. The hint he gives about original wills being around somewhere proved to be correct: there are several years of wills which are not found in the record volumes (Louis Dow Scisco, "Colonial Records of Talbot County,'" *Md. Hist. Mag.*, XXII, 186-189).

[2] Oswald Tilghman, *History of Talbot County, Maryland*, Baltimore, 1915.

Village of Talbot Courthouse, 1776.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1662--. Also contain Court Proceedings, 1662-74, 1686-89, 1692, 1696-1700, 1705-08; Vital Records, 1657-91. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1662--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1662-1790; 1662-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1662--. Campbell. C.H. 1662--. L.O. 1833-1949, microfilm. H.R. 1662-1951, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1662-1833. Liber index. H.R.

LIST OF CONVEYANCES, 1662-1740. Chronological list of conveyances, giving name of seller, buyer, tract name, acreage and date. H.R.

LAND COMMISSIONS, 1723-1882. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1736-45, 1761-82, 1794-1882. H.R. 1723-93.

PLAT BOOKS, 1931--. Earlier plats in Land Records. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

STATE ROADS COMMISSION LAND ACQUISITION DOCKET, 1957--. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

COURT MINUTES, 1765-69, 1774-76, 1785--. C.H. 1916--. H.R. 1765-1916.

JUDGMENTS, 1675-85, 1696, 1698-1705, 1714-33, 1739-46. 1662-74, 1686-89, 1692, 1696-99, 1705-08 in Land Records. Also contains Warrants of Attorneys, 1698, 1704-05; List of Road Overseers, 1702-13; Cattle Marks and Publications of Freight Charges, 1741-77; Bonds for Orphans' Estates, 1727-51. H.R.

CIVIL JUDGMENTS, 1747-75, 1785-1818. H.R.

JUDGMENTS AND JUDICIAL PROCEEDINGS RELATING TO LANDS AND TENEMENTS, 1826-32, 1835-44. Each volume indexed, 1827-44. H.R.

JUDGMENT DOCKET (CIVIL JUDGMENTS, RECORD OF JUDGMENTS), 1846-84, 1896-1908. Each volume indexed. H.R .

GENERAL INDEX TO JUDGMENTS, 1848--. Index to Judgment Record, Chancery Docket, Law Docket and Magistrates Judgments. C.H.

LAW DOCKET, 1948--. Replaced Record of Judgments and Cases Pending, Civil Judgments, Civil Appearance Docket and Petition Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DOCKETS (OFFICE DOCKETS), 1743-46, 1752-54, 1761, 1765, 1768, 1770, 1772-75, 1777-79, 1781, 1785-1816, 1818-24. H.R.

JUDICIALS, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CIVIL AND CRIMINAL DOCKETS, 1853-54, 1868-97, 1924-1948. 1948-- in Law Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CRIMINAL JUDGMENTS (CRIMINAL RECORD), 1747-80, 1785-94, 1801-14, 1857-83, 1898--. 1842-57 in Survey of Easton and St. Michaels'. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1857-83. H.R. 1747-1857.

CRIMINAL DOCKET (CRIMINAL TRIALS), 1845, 1856, 1858-59, 1861, 1864, 1866-84, 1898-1934, 1938--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1874-85, 1896-1946. Each volume indexed by name of plaintiff. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS OF COURT OF OYER AND TERMINER, 1828 H.R.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1884-96. 1896-- in Chancery Docket. C.H.

SUPERSEDEAS, 1813-15. Indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1823-24, 1828--. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

CHANCERY INDEX, 1850--. Campbell. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1831--. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

ADOPTION DOCKET, 1947--. Indexed. C.H.

CLAIM DOCKET, 1886--. Indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF TRUSTEES BONDS AND RELEASES, 1874--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKET, 1884--. Indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORDS, 1802-1906. Indexed. C.H.

INCORPORATION OF CHURCHES, 1829-66. See also Corporation Record. H.R.

CORPORATION RECORD, 1869--. Each volume indexed. See also Incorporation of Churches. C.H.

CO-PARTNERSHIP AND TRADE-MARK RECORD, 1889--. Indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1794-1886. Volumes at Courthouse indexed by name of male, 1794-1882; by names of male and female, 1883-86. C.H. 1794-1886. H.R. 1796-1802, 1815-86.

INDEX TO MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1796-1866. Campbell index. H.R.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865--. Arranged alphabetically by name of male, 1865-95; by names of male and female, 1896--. C.H. 1865--. H.R. 1865-88; 1886-1915, microfilm.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-73. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-71. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1896--. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1902-49. C.H.

REGISTRATION PETITION DOCKET, 1903--. Record of proceedings before Board of Registry on petitions of voters for change in registration. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS OF REMOVAL, 1901-27. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CIVIL COMMISSIONS, 1800-95, 1912--. C.H. 1912--. H.R. 1800-95.

TEST BOOKS (OATHS), 1794--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1942. H.R. 1794-1942.

CONSTABLES BONDS, 1815-1941. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1807-23. Also contains Tobacco Warehouse Minutes, 1801-09. H.R.

CENSUS OF FREE NEGROES, 1832. C.H.

ROAD RECORD (PUBLIC ROADS), 1745-87, 1798-1853. Record of proceedings in condemnation of land for roads. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE POOR HOUSE, 1792-1847. H.R.

RECORD OF SPRING HILL CEMETERY TRANSFERS AND PLOTS, 1905--. Indexed by name of purchaser. C.H.

RECORD OF CEMETERY LOTS OTHER THAN SPRING HILL CEMETERY, 1905--. C.H.

WOODLAWN MEMORIAL PARK, INC., 1957--. Indexed. C.H.

SHERIFF'S FEE BOOK, 1790-93. H.R.

ACCOUNTS OF JAMES PARROTT, CONSTABLE, 1807-25. H.R.

LIST OF ACCOUNTS PLACED IN THE HANDS OF SAMUEL SATTERFIELD FOR COLLECTION, 1838-39. H.R.

AGENCY RECORD, 1936--. Record of agents of business firms engaged in commercial transactions in the County. Indexed. C.H.

DAY BOOK OF A MERCHANT IN EASTON, 1817-19. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1853--. Include Law Papers, 1901--; Equity Papers, 1853--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1787--. Libers for 1787-1806 also include Guardian Bonds, 1789-1803. Liber for 1802-06 also includes Administration Bonds, 1736-40. Some volumes indexed. C.H. 1787-1851, microfilm; 1852--. H.R. 1787-1851; 1852-1946, microfilm.

ORPHANS COURT DOCKETS, 1789-1846, 1852-81. Most volumes indexed. H.R.

PETITIONS AND ORDERS, 1897--. Indexed by name of deceased, ward or petitioner. C.H. 1897--.

GENERAL INDEX OF THE ORPHANS COURT, 1954--. Cottco Universal. Index to Wills, Inventories, Administration Accounts and Distributions. C.H.

WILLS, 1668-1716, 1724-46, 1777--. Note that wills for the period when the record is missing may sometimes be found among the original wills. See entry for Original Papers. A few volumes indexed. H.R. has card index, 1668-1794. C.H. 1668-1848, microfilm; 1848--. H.R. 1668-1848; 1848-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1668-1953. 1954-- in General Index of the Orphans Court. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1668-1953. H.R. 1668-1953, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION BONDS (BONDS), 1664-1730, 1777--. 1736-40 in Orphans Court Proceedings. 1756-62 in Administration Accounts. Liber for 1720-30 also includes Certificates of Freedom, 1806-19. Libers for 1832-- also include Guardian Bonds, 1832--; Annual Valuations, 1831-52. C.H. 1664-1852, microfilm; 1852--. H.R. 1664-1852.

RENUNCIATIONS, APPLICATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS OF ADMINISTRATORS, EXECUTORS AND GUARDIANS, 1900--. Most volumes indexed. C.H.

OATHS OF EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, 1861--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

The Old Armory at Easton.

INVENTORIES (ACCOUNTS OF SALES), 1668-1720, 1722-26, 1731-74, 1777--. 1789-90 in Administration Accounts. Liber I. B. No. A also includes Administration Accounts, 1777-87. Libers J.P. No. 9, 6, 14 and 16 also include Lists of Debts, 1810-11, 1823-26. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1668-1851, microfilm; 1851--. H.R. 1668-1851; 1851-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO INVENTORIES, 1668-1953. 1954-- in General Index of the Orphans Court. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1668--. H.R. 1668-1953, microfilm.

LISTS OF DEBTS, 1777--. 1810-12, 1823-26 in Inventories. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1846--. H.R. 1777-1845.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1674-1728, 1777--. 1777-87 in Inventories; 1820-21 in Distributions. Liber J. G. No. 2 also includes Inventories, 1789-90. Liber J. P. No. 8 also includes Administration Bonds, 1756-62, Liber J. P. No. 9 also includes Distributions, 1813-16, 1821-22. Liber for 1817-20 also includes Awards, 1817-22; Commissions to Orphans' Court Justices, 1804-26; Annual Valuations, 1810-15. Liber J. P. No. 24 also includes Distributions, 1822-24. Volumes after 1897 include Distributions. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1674-1860, microfilm; 1861--. H.R. 1674-1860; 1861-1954, microfilm.

INDEX TO ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1674-1953. 1954-- in General Index of the Orphans Court. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1674-1953. H.R. 1674-1953, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS KEY, 1777--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1777-1863, microfilm; 1864--. H.R. 1777-1863; 1864-1949, microfilm.

DISTRIBUTIONS (DISTRIBUTIONS AND RELEASES), 1788-1897. 1813-16, 1821-24, 1897-- in Administration Accounts. Libers for 1817-21, 1825-97 also include Releases. Liber for 1817-21 also includes Administration Accounts, 1820-21. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1788-1857, microfilm; 1858--. H.R. 1788-1857; 1858-1897, microfilm.

INDEX TO DISTRIBUTIONS, 1788-1954, 1954-- in General Index of the Orphans Court. Burr's Record Index. C.H. 1788-1954. H.R. 1788-1954, microfilm.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1804-32, 1789-1803 in Orphans Court Proceedings; 1832-- in Administration Bonds. Also includes Annual Valuations, 1815-32. Most volumes indexed by name of ward. H.R.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1790--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1790-1852, microfilm; 1853--. H.R. 1790-1852.

ACTING GUARDIANS, 1822-58. Brief record of cases where an executor or administrator is also acting as guardian to the children of the deceased as required under the provisions of Chapter 174 of the Acts of 1820. Indexed by name of ward. H.R.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS KEY, 1785--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1785-1845, microfilm; 1845--. H.R. 1785-1845; 1845-1901, microfilm.

RELEASES, 1897--. Earlier record in Administration Accounts and Distributions. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1897--. H.R. 1897-1950, 1954-55, microfilm.

INDEX TO RELEASES, 1879--. Burr's Record Index. Indexed by name of releasor. C.H.

REAL ESTATE RECORD, 1867--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INDEX TO SALES OF REAL ESTATE, 1867--. Liber index. C.H. 1867--.

CHANCERY DOCKET (REAL ESTATE SALES), 1867-77, 1913-24. C.H.

CREDITORS DOCKET [CLAIMS DOCKET], 1854--. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1794-1920. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. H.R.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1819-60. 1806-19 in Administration Bonds. Indexed by name of Negro. H.R.

NEGRO DOCKET, 1855-67. Brief record of Negroes seized and tried by Orphans' Court for residing in county without visible means of support under the provisions of Chapter 38 of the Acts of 1839. H.R.

CONTESTED WILLS (JUDGMENTS & DECREES), 1831-49, 1860-1928. Record of proceedings in caveats to wills, including petitions, exceptions, answers of defendants, testimony, copies of wills and decrees of Orphans' Court. Indexed by name of defendants, 1831-49; by name of deceased, 1860-1928. C.H. 1860-1928. H.R. 1831-49.

ANNUAL VALUATIONS, 1777-1809, 1850-1906. 1810-15 in Administration Accounts. 1815-32 in Guardian Bonds. 1831-52 in Administration Bonds. Each volume indexed by names of deceased, ward and guardian. C.H. 1850-1906. H.R. 1777-1809.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1665--. Many of early papers are missing; surviving items are as follows:

Wills. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1665-1789.

Administration Bonds. C.H. 1805--.

Inventories. C.H. 1880--.

Lists of Debts. C.H. 1879--.

Administration Accounts. C.H. 1790--.

Distributions. C.H. 1879--.

Guardian Bonds. C.H. 1805--.

Guardian Accounts. C.H. 1879--.

Real Estate. C.H. 1849-1932.

Releases, Petitions and Orders, etc. C.H. 1879--.

County Commissioners

PROCEEDINGS OF THE LEVY COURT, 1815-30. H.R.

PROCEEDINGS OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS, 1832-36, 1841--. C.H. 1903--. H.R. 1832-1903.

MINUTES OF THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE TAX, 1796, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1810-12, 1816-31. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF CONTROL AND REVIEW, 1896-97. H.R.

LEVY LISTS (LEVY RECORD), 1805-25, 1832-38, 1841, 1843-45, 1847--. C.H. 1900-. H.R. 1805-99.

ALPHABETICAL LEVY LISTS, 1849, 1874-75, 1878-80. H.R.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1798-1840, 1876--. (Incomplete.) Arranged alphabetically within each district or indexed by name of taxpayer. C.H. 1876--. H.R. 1798-1840.

ASSESSMENT OF NEGROES, 1813, 1817, 1826, 1832, 1840, 1852 (Incomplete). Most volumes indexed by name of owner. H.R.

TAX ON PLATE AND VESSELS, 1842-64. H.R.

ASSESSABLE AMOUNTS, 1812-16, 1818, 1820, 1822-25, 1830, 1832-77, 1884-88, 1894-1908. C.H. 1856-1908. H.R. 1812-55.

TAX LEDGERS, 1832-33. Record of amounts due from taxpayers copied from Assessable Amounts. Each volume indexed. H.R.

TRANSFER TAX BOOK, 1793-1831, 1840-76, 1902--. Arranged alphabetically by name of taxpayer. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BY COLLECTORS, 1842-46, 1850, 1878-80. H.R.

ASSESSORS FIELD BOOKS, 1876, 1880. (Incomplete.) H.R.

APPEAL BOOK, 1876. H.R.

INCOME TAX LIST, 1850-60. Accounts of tax levied on income for the maintenance of schools. H.R.

STOCK BOOKS (STOCKS, STOCK LEDGER), 1850-76, 1879-81. H.R.

TAX BOOKS (DIRECT TAX), 1793--. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1793-1852.

COLLECTORS BOOK, 1823-25. Arranged alphabetically by name of taxpayer. H.R.

ROAD RECORD, 1854-1900. Record of proceedings of County Commissioners relative to roads. Indexed. H.R.

ROAD BOOKS, 1878-1918. Record of expenditures on roads. C.H.

TALBOT COUNTY ALMHOUSE, REGISTER, 1847-96. H.R.

TABLOT COUNTY ALMSHOUSE, MINUTES OF THE TRUSTEES OF THE POOR, 1886-1928. H.R.

SCHOOL MINUTES, 1835-37, 1842. Record of proceedings of County Commissioners relative to schools. H.R.

SCHOOL LEDGER, 1840-48. Each volume indexed. H.R.

JOURNAL, 1873-75, 1930--. County levy and estimated expenses. C.H.

ANNUAL EXPENSES, 1874-75, 1877-87. Itemized statement of expenses provided for in levy. H.R.

TEST BOOK, 1832-52. H.R.

LIST OF BONDS DELIVERED TO CLERK OF COURT, 1838-45. Bonds of county employees. H.R.

BURIAL PERMITS, 1901-13. C.H.

WASHINGTON COUNTY

Records

On the night of December 6, 1871, the courthouse was burned. Normally we are left to guess about which records were lost but the special correspondent of the *Baltimore American* (Dec. 8, 1871) supplies us with some details:

> The vault of the Register's office aided by the well directed use of the Junior Company's steam fire engine, was proof against the flames and falling timbers. The energetic Register, Mr. M. S. Barber, had, however, with his aids removed nearly all of the important papers. The Clerk's office had been also nearly emptied by that officer and his faithful deputies, but the fire reached and scorched some old papers already recorded. The papers and books of the County Commissioners were all saved by the gallant efforts of H. W. Lyday, a Commissioner. These papers were in an upper room, and after great risk Mr. Lyday, Mr. E. W. Funk and others succeeded in carrying them off.
>
> I have not been advised whether the papers of the School Commissioners, also in rooms up-stairs, were saved. Sheriff Bamford retreated in good order, without the loss of a docket or process.
>
> The Commissioners' safe fell through the floor, and the fate of its contents, which are probably unimportant, has not thus far been ascertained. Mr. Lyday unfortunately had not been able to get the key to rifle it before the burning, and now the lock stubbornly refuses to act, whilst no one has been found who is able to pick it.

Perhaps the Special correspondent was a bit too optimistic for many records including the valuable first twenty years of the Judgment records are gone and must have perished in the fire. Among the papers which have disappeared some escaped the fire for this writer saw a large trunkfull of such papers—some labelled "1777"—in a hotel in Roanoke, Virginia sometime in the late 1930's. All efforts to trace them in 1939 and thereafter have proved fruitless.

Note

In the first volume of this study (p. 156, and *ibid.* footnotes 10 and 11) I noted the attribution of the courthouse of 1823 to Benjamin Henry Latrobe. At that time no part of the Latrobe family papers—in which Edith Ross Bevan said there was, "much correspondence between Latrobe and Ringgold relative to the Courthouse"—was available to me. Since that time a part, but not all, of these papers have been purchased by the Maryland Historical Society which kindly permitted me to examine them. I found only one item relating to the courthouse (*Latrobe Letters,* 1817, pp. 36-37):

> Washington, March 10, 1817
>
> General L. Ringgold
> Hagerstown
> Dear Sir,
>
> The time allowed me to design the Courthouse has been very short, that with the utmost diligence, & encroaching on the duties of the Sabbath, I can only send you a general design, & have hardly time enough left to add the necessary explanation.
>
> The Courtroom is 63 ft by 40 ft.
> Each of the Offices 18 feet square vaulted
> The Jury rooms 18 by 16, the grand jury room 25.8 by 18.0
>
> You were so pleased with the Church that I have designed the building in the same taste but it will be a much handsomer building. I must defer the bill of scantlings to next

post. The principal timbers will not be more than 12" by 4", a few of them more than 8 x 8. The principal lumber will be sound yellow pine 14 inches wide and 1¼ thick boards 12 ft. long. For the Jury room there will be required 50 pieces of Scantling 20 feet long 12 by 3. All the rest of the Scantling may be 6 by 3.

You will observe that for the sake of symmetry I have put the Jury rooms on the ground floor. They will be perfectly private because they open from the Court room and have two doors towards the Court room both of which may be shut.

If the General plan is adopted I will make any alterations you please, & have to give you a great deal of information which I cannot do now.

With true respect I am

Yours B. H. Latrobe

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1777--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1777-88; 1777-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1777--. Cott Family. C.H. 1777--. L.O. 1840-1932, microfilm. H.R. 1933-60, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1777-1912. Campbell. H.R. 1777-1912; 1777-1850, microfilm.

INDEX TO ASSIGNMENTS, 1935--. Cott Key. C.H.

PLAT RECORDS, 1886--. C.H.

INDEX TO PLAT RECORDS, 1802--. Index to plats in Land Records and Plat Records. C.H.

PLAT BOOKS FOR STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

INDEX TO STATE ROADS PLATS, 1932--. C.H.

MINUTES OF COURT, 1837--. C.H.

JUDGMENT RECORDS, 1782--. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1819--. H.R. 1782-1819.

COURT DOCKETS, 1777-80, 1793--. Early volumes include Minutes. Each volume indexed. C.H.

STET DOCKETS, 1870--. Each volume indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

MISCELLANEOUS DOCKET, 1904--. Indexed. C.H.

PROCEEDINGS IN EQUITY, 1815--. Each volume indexed, 1815-62. C.H.

DECREE OF DIVORCES, 1908--. For earlier record see Chancery Docket. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1815--. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY DOCKET AND PROCEEDINGS IN EQUITY, 1815--. C.H. Cott Key, 1918--. H.R. arranged alphabetically, 1815-1918.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1834--. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES IN EQUITY, 1885--. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORDS, 1878-89. Indexed. C.H.

INSOLVENT DOCKETS, 1817-44, 1884-1908. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BANKRUPT RECORD, 1924--. Copies of petitions by creditors, discharges and adjudications from United States District Court. Indexed. C.H.

NATURALIZATION RECORD, 1798-1906. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PETITION FOR NATURALIZATION, 1903--. Each volume indexed. C.H .

TRANSFERRED PETITIONS, 1929--. Record of petitions for naturalization by aliens who have transferred from other states. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1906--. C.H.

RECORD OF CORPORATIONS, 1803--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENTS AND DISSOLUTIONS (RECORD OF LIMITED PARTNERSHIPS), 1882--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1799-1886. H.R.

MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1865-87. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1886--. Includes applications, licenses and returns of ministers. C.H.

INDEX TO MARRIAGE RECORDS, 1799--. Cott Key. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-69, 1876. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1865-67. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1896--. C.H.

RECORD OF INTENT OF PERSONS TO BECOME CITIZENS OF STATE OF MARYLAND AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, 1902--. C.H.

COMMISSIONS, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1896--. H.R. 1873-96.

TEST BOOK, 1797--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND RECORD, 1874--. Record of bonds of public officials. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1914--. H.R. 1874-1914.

CERTIFICATES OF FREEDOM, 1827-63. Indexed by name of Negro. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF MANUMISSIONS, 1806-63. Each volume indexed. C.H.

ASSESSMENT, 1803. This probably belongs among the records of the County Commissioners. C.H.

CENSUS RECORDS, 1880. Federal census of 1880 for Washington County; gives age, sex, color and occupation of each inhabitant. Arranged alphabetically within districts. C.H.

WASHINGTON COUNTY LAND PATENTS, 1734--. Compilation of original grants of land in the area now included in Washington County prepared by Arthur Tracey. Each volume indexed by name of tract. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1820--. In good condition. Include Law Papers, 1880--; Equity Papers, 1820--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1806--. See also Rough Minutes. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1806--. H.R. 1806-1954, microfilm.

ROUGH MINUTES, 1786-1918. H.R.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKETS, 1823-74. Each volume indexed. H.R.

INDEX TO DECEDENTS ESTATES, 1777--. Comprehensive index covering all probate records for years listed. C.H.

WILLS, 1749-61, 1777--. Wills for 1749-61 are copies of wills probated in Frederick County. Each volume indexed. H.R. has card index, 1749-1854. C.H. 1749-1863, microfilm; 1854--. H.R. 1749-1854; 1749-1955, microfilm.

INDEX TO WILLS, 1777-1889. Campbell. C.H. 1777-1889. H.R. 1777-1889, microfilm.

EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS BONDS, 1799--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1856--. H.R. 1799-1856; 1799-1856, microfilm.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION, 1852-53. Indexed. H.R.

INVENTORIES, 1777--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1777-1853; 1777-1850, microfilm.

LIST OF DEBTS, 1832--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1844--. H.R. 1832-44.

LIST OF SALES, 1787--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1853--. H.R. 1787-1853.

EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS ACCOUNTS, 1778--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1778-1852; 1778-1852, microfilm.

DISTRIBUTIONS (BALANCE BOOK), 1778--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1858--. H.R. 1778-1858.

GUARDIAN BONDS, 1786--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H. 1872--. H.R. 1786-1872.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1787--. Each volume indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1852--. H.R. 1787-1852.

GUARDIAN KEY (INDEX TO GUARDIAN AND WARD), 1785--. Indexed by name of guardian. C.H. 1865--. H.R. 1785-1865.

RELEASES, 1810--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1856--. H.R. 1810-56.

VALUATIONS (COMMISSIONS, APPRAISEMENT OF REAL ESTATE), 1800-71. 1871-- in Inventories. Each volume indexed. H.R.

DOCKET OF CLAIMS AGAINST DECEASED PERSONS, 1854--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

SUMMONS DOCKETS, 1790-1801, 1847-1914. Each volume indexed. H.R.

INDENTURES, 1794-1917. Each volume indexed by name of master. H.R.

MANUMISSIONS, 1827-63. Each volume indexed. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1777--. Comprised of following items:

Wills. C.H. 1818--. H.R. 1777-1817.
Administration Bonds. C.H. 1805--. H.R. 1777-1804.
Inventories. C.H. 1807--. H.R. 1777-1806.
List of Debts. C.H. 1832--.
Administration Accounts. C.H. 1803--. H.R. 1778-1802.
Guardian Bonds. C.H. 1807--.
Indentures. C.H. 1794-1917.
Equity Papers. C.H. 1867-1927.
Petitions, Orders, Commissions, Releases, Warrants to Appraisers, Letters of Administration, etc. C.H. 1795--.

County Commissioners

MINUTES, 1845-58, 1873-1913, 1917--. C.H.

TAX LEVY, 1898-99. C.H.

ASSESSMENTS, 1862-76, 1902-14, 1924-28. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

INDEX TO ASSESSMENTS, 1924-28. Cott Family. C.H.

ROAD RECORD, 1819-91. C.H.

ROAD BOARD, 1928-33. C.H.

DISBURSEMENTS, 1872-80, 1896-1916. Record of expenditures of Road Board. C.H.

DESCRIPTIONS, 1899. Description of roads and bridges, giving courses and distances. C.H.

CONDEMNATION, 1911. Description of land for roads and bridges to be acquired in condemnation proceedings. C.H.

WICOMICO COUNTY

Records

No county of Maryland has been more fortunate than Wicomico in preserving its essential records. If there have been losses they are not obvious ones. Several factors have contributed to bring about this happy state: the county is relatively new having been erected in 1867, it has had only one courthouse thereby avoiding the losses attendant on moving, there has been neither fire nor flood, and the caretakers of the records, the judges, the clerks and the registers have not been neglectful of their duties.

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1867--. C.H. 1867--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm. H.R. 1867-1949, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1867--. Campbell, 1867-1916; Cott Key, 1916-32; Cottco Universal, 1933--. C.H. 1867--. H.R. 1867-1932, microfilm.

GENERAL INDEX TO PLATS, 1867--. Covers plats recorded in Land Records. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

COURT MINUTES, 1868--. C.H.

RECORD OF COURT JUDGMENTS, 1868--. Includes Coroners' Inquests, 1903--. C.H.

INDEX TO JUDGMENTS (INDEX TO FINISHED CASES, INDEX TO COURT AND MAGISTRATES JUDGMENTS), 1868--. Liber index, 1868-1918. Cott Key, 1918--. Also includes Index to Magistrates Judgments. C.H.

DOCKETS, 1867--. Also includes Criminal Record, 1867-99; Judicial Docket, 1867-1916, 1927--; Insolvent Docket, 1867-1910; Miscellaneous Docket, 1868--. Trials indexed by name of defendant, 1867-73, 1916--. C.H.

CRIMINAL RECORD, 1900--. 1867-99 in Docket. C.H.

INDEX TO CRIMINAL RECORD, 1900--. Liber index. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1913--. C.H.

INDEX TO STET DOCKET, 1913--. C.H.

JUDICIAL RECORD, 1867--. Also includes Tax Sales, 1867--; Land Condemnations, 1867--. C.H.

JUDICIAL DOCKET, 1916-26. 1867-1916, 1927-- in Dockets. C.H.

DOCKET MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY JUDGMENTS, 1868-99. Brief record of judgments against policyholders of Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Somerset and Worcester counties. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1868--. Includes Divorce Decrees, 1868-1907. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. 1868-1907 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent. C.H.

CHANCERY AND JUDICIAL INDEX, 1867--. Campbell, 1867-1926. Cottco Universal, 1927--. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1867--. C.H.

CLAIMS DOCKET, 1886--. Indexed by name of complainant. C.H.

DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1908-15, 1920--. From 1915 to 1920 the clerk of court was barred from handling naturalization cases by order of court. Since about 1930, persons applying for naturalization in Dorchester, Somerset and Worcester Counties have been referred to the Wicomico County Circuit Court. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PETITION AND RECORD [Naturalization], 1910-13, 1920--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CERTIFICATES OF NATURALIZATION, 1912--. C.H.

COURT ORDERS [Naturalization], 1929--. C.H.

CORPORATION RECORD, 1873--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1867-86. Arranged alphabetically by name of male. C.H.

INDEX AND RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1886--. Campbell, 1886-1934. Cottco Universal, 1935--. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1902-04, 1910-15, 1919-32, 1937--. Includes minister's returns after 1937. C.H.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1868-75. Contains only five entries. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

RECORD OF DEATHS, 1869. Contains one entry. C.H.

BURIAL PERMITS, 1900-05, 1909-15. Record of burial permits, giving number, name of deceased, place and date of birth, place and date of death, cause of death, place of burial and name of undertaker. C.H.

ELECTION RETURNS, 1901--. C.H.

REGISTER OF INTENDED VOTERS, 1903--. C.H.

AFFIDAVITS OF TEMPORARY REMOVAL, 1907--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

BOND BOOK, 1867--. Contains bonds and commissions of civil officers and trustees bonds. Each volume indexed, 1867-92. C.H.

INDEX TO BOND RECORD, 1903--. Liber index. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1868--. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1867--. Include Law Papers, 1868--; Equity Papers, 1867--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

MINUTES OF ORPHANS COURT, 1867--. C.H. 1867--. H.R. 1867-1944, microfilm.

ADMINISTRATION DOCKET, 1869-91, 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PETITION DOCKET, 1895--. Brief record of petitions filed by trustees and guardians to sell real estate and securities. Each volume indexed by name of decedent or ward. C.H.

WILLS, 1866--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1866--. H.R. 1866-1957, microfilm.

INDEX—EXECUTORS AND ADMINISTRATORS, 1867--. Comprehensive index to wills, administration bonds, inventories, sales, debts, accounts, receipts and releases. C.H. 1867--. H.R. 1867-1945, Microfilm.

BOND BOOK, 1867--. Contains bonds of administrators, executors and guardians. C.H.

APPLICATION BOOK FOR ADMINISTRATION LETTERS, 1927--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

INVENTORIES, 1867--. C.H.

ACCOUNT SALES (PERSONAL PROPERTY), 1868--. Each volume indexed, 1927--. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION ACCOUNTS, 1868--. Each volume indexed, 1911--. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1868--. Each volume indexed by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN INDEX, 1856--. Volume for 1856-1926 contains copies of records from Worcester County, 1856-66, and from Somerset County, 1861-67. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REGISTER OF CLAIMS BOOK, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

REAL ESTATE (SALES), 1868--. Each volume indexed by names of executor or administrator and heirs. C.H.

INDENTURES, 1868-1900. Indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

RENUNCIATIONS, ETC., 1907--. Record of renunciations of right to administer on estates or to serve as guardians. Each volume indexed by name of decedent or ward. C.H.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1867--. C.H. Comprised of following items:

Administrator and Executor. 1867--. Includes all original probate papers except items listed below.

Wills. 1867-1923.

Administration Accounts. 1867-1923.

Orphans Court Papers. 1937--.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS, 1896--. C.H. 1932--. H.R. 1896-1932.

INDEX TO MINUTES, 1942--. C.H.

LEVY BOOKS, 1894-1926. C.H.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1866--. (Incomplete.) Each volume indexed. C.H. 1896--. H.R. 1866-96.

ASSESSOR'S FIELD BOOK, SEVENTH DISTRICT, TRAPPE, 1876. H.R.

TAX SALES RECORD, 1918--. C.H.

DISTRICT ROADS, 1868--. Original petitions for roads and improvements. C.H.

ROADS AND BRIDGES, 1912-20. Record of expenditures for roads and bridges. C.H.

TAX DITCHES, 1868--. Original petitions for construction and cleaning of drainage ditches. C.H.

FREE BOOK RECORDS, 1900-13. Record of books furnished to school children. C.H. 1900-07. H.R. 1908-13.

WORCESTER COUNTY

Records

When Worcester County was set up, copies of the major probate series of Somerset County, from which the new county was formed, were made for use at Snow Hill. These copies are still extant as are all of the Will books of the county and most of the other probate records for the later period. The minor series and the Orphans Court Proceedings have suffered important losses, and the original papers preceding the fire of 1893 have been lost almost *in toto*.

The Land Records have been preserved. However, the loss of three volumes, Libers A.F., A.G., and A.H., for the period from January 11, 1815, to August 20, 1818, was noted in the *General Index to Grantees*, 1742-1844. There it is explained that these books were burned in the fire of 1834. Unfortunately, there is no explanation of why these books and no others were lost at that time. Almost all of the Judgment records and the miscellaneous records of the county court have also been lost.

Of the administrative records, the Levy Court, the Commissioners of the Tax, the early records of the Board of County Commissioners, nothing survived the two fires. This is probably due to the fact that in the fire of 1893 the records of the Clerk of Court and Register of Wills were in vaults which had been built only ten years earlier; but none of the other county records were safeguarded in any way. It is interesting to note that the correspondent who wrote the description of the fire in the Baltimore *Sun* of August 9, 1893 reported that when the "Phoenix" of Wilmington and the Salisbury fire department arrived at Snow Hill at 5:30 in the morning "They immediately commenced throwing water on the vaults in the courthouse. . . ."

Circuit Court

LAND RECORDS, 1742-1815, 1818--. Libers AF, AG and AH, 1815-18 destroyed by fire in 1832. Also includes Mortgages, 1742-1921; Chattel Records, 1742-1921; Indentures, 1742-1855; Bonds, 1742-1901; Appraisal of Orphans Property, 1742-75; Plats, 1742-1915; Court Proceedings, 1778-79; Oaths of Office, 1742-84; Civil Commissions, 1792-1884. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1742--. L.O. 1948--, microfilm. H.R. 1742-1789; 1742-1850, microfilm.

INDEX TO LAND RECORDS, 1742--. Liber index, 1742-1876; Cott Key, 1876-1917; Cott Family, 1918-49; Cottco Universal, 1950--. C.H. 1742--. L.O. 1844-1947, microfilm. H.R. 1742-1844; 1742-1868, microfilm.

MORTGAGE RECORD, 1921--. 1742-1921 in Land Records. Includes Chattel Mortgages, 1921-35. Each volume indexed by name of mortgagee. C.H. 1921--. L.O. 1949--, microfilm.

INDEX TO MORTGAGES, 1925--. 1742-1924 in Index to Land Records. C.H.

PLAT BOOK, 1890--. See also Land Records. Each volume indexed by name of property. C.H.

CHATTEL RECORDS, 1935--. 1742-1921 in Land Records; 1921-35 in Mortgage Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

PLAT BOOK, 1890--. See also Land Records. Each volume indexed by name of property. C.H.

TRANSCRIPT DOCKET, 1818-24, 1846-1913; 1918-47. Record of unfinished cases transcribed and carried forward from Court Docket. Indexed by names of plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

PLAT BOOK STATE ROADS COMMISSION, 1932--. C.H.

COURT PROCEEDINGS [JUDICIAL RECORD], 1769, 1796--. 1778-79 in Land Records. Also includes Land Commissions, 1796-1850; Commissions to Divide Estates, 1796-1883; Inquisitions, 1796-1825; Record of Ditches, 1796-1812; Naturalizations, 1803-1909; Insolvents, 1812-80; Tax Sales, 1877-1929; Civil Commissions, 1885--; Election Returns, 1897--; Affidavits of Removal, 1909-18. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1816--. H.R. 1769, 1796-1816.

COURT DOCKETS, 1825-27, 1829--. Also contain Court Minutes with a few exceptions. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1901--. H.R. 1825-1900.

GROUP INDEX TO TRANSCRIPT DOCKET, 1910-34. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

CRIMINAL INDEX, 1908--. Cott Key. Indexed by name of defendant. C.H.

INDEX TO COURT AND MAGISTRATES' JUDGMENTS, 1900--. Separate volumes for plaintiffs and defendants. Cott Key. C.H.

STET DOCKET, 1876--. Indexed by names of plaintiff and defendant. C.H.

DOCKET, MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY JUDGMENTS, 1868-99. Brief record of judgments against policyholders of Mutual Fire Insurance Company of Somerset and Worcester Counties. C.H.

PETITIONS AND COMMISSIONS, 1796-1816. Record of petitions for licenses, roads, naturalizations, commissions to mark and bound lands, commissions to divide estates, etc. Each volume indexed. H.R.

BOND RECORD, 1902--. 1792-1901 in Land Records. Each volume indexed. C.H.

CHANCERY RECORD, 1818--. Also contains Divorce Decrees, 1879-1907. Each volume indexed. C.H.

DIVORCE DECREES, 1908--. 1879-1907 in Chancery Record. Each volume indexed by name of complainant and respondent. C.H.

CHANCERY DOCKET, 1822--. Each volume indexed by names of complainant and respondent, 1822-1910. C.H.

INDEX TO CHANCERY DOCKET, 1910--. C.H.

INSOLVENT RECORD, 1879-1938. 1812-80 in Court Proceedings. Indexed by name of insolvent. C.H.

RECORD OF DECLARATION OF INTENTION [Naturalization], 1910-14. 1803-1909 in Court Proceedings. C.H.

CHURCH INCORPORATIONS (CHURCH RECORD), 1803-34, 1868-94. See also Incorporation Record. Indexed, 1868-94. H.R.

INCORPORATION RECORD, 1868--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1882--. H.R. 1868-82.

RECORD OF MARRIAGE LICENSES, 1795-1890. C.H. 1795-1865. H.R. 1795-1890.

RECORD OF MARRIAGES, 1865--. C.H.

APPLICATIONS FOR MARRIAGE LICENSE, 1886-1952. C.H. 1900-52. H.R. 1886-1900.

RECORD OF BIRTHS, 1865-69, 1889. Arranged alphabetically. H.R.

VOTERS INTENT RECORD, 1936-48. Arranged alphabetically. C.H.

TEST BOOK, 1930--. C.H.

RECORD OF DITCHES, 1858-60. 1796-1812 in Court Proceedings. Record of petitions for construction of drainage ditches. H.R.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, 1824--. Poorly arranged. Include Law Papers, 1840--. Equity Papers, 1824--. C.H.

Orphans' Court

ORPHANS COURT PROCEEDINGS, 1782--. 1777-82 in Inventories, Sales and Debts. Also contains Guardian Bonds, Annual Valuations, Receipts and Releases and Indentures. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1789--. H.R. 1782-89; 1789-1954, microfilm.

KEY TO ADMINISTRATION (PROBATE KEY), 1742-1941. Discontinued because essentially the same information is recorded in Estate Docket. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1743-1941. H.R. 1743-1941, microfilm.

ESTATE DOCKET, 1908--. Each volume indexed. C.H. 1908--. H.R. 1941-47, microfilm.

GENERAL INDEX TO ESTATES, 1908--. C.H.

WILLS, 1666--. 1804-05 in Bonds. Liber M. H. No. 3 contains Somerset County Wills recorded by the Register of Worcester County as authorized by Chapter 64, Acts of 1807. Each volume indexed. H.R. has card index, 1742-90. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1666-1790; 1666-1950, microfilm.

BONDS (BONDS AND LETTERS), 1667--. Bonds of executors and administrators Liber J. W. No. 14 contains Somerset County Bonds, 1667-1742. Liber for 1804-05 also contains Wills. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1793--. H.R. 1667-1793; 1667-1793, 1807-50, microfilm.

INVENTORIES, SALES AND DEBTS, 1688--. Liber J. W. No. 15 contains Somerset County Inventories, 1688-1742; Somerset County Accounts, 1687-1719; Worcester County Orphans Court Proceedings, 1777-92 Libers for 1799-1805 also contain Accounts. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1790--. H.R. 1688-1790; 1804-1851, microfilm.

ACCOUNTS, 1792--. 1687-1719, 1799-1805 in Inventories, Sales and Debts. Most volumes indexed. C.H. 1792--. H.R. 1792-1853, microfilm.

KEY TO GUARDIAN BONDS [GUARDIANSHIP BONDS], 1799--. Arranged alphabetically by name of ward. C.H.

GUARDIAN ACCOUNTS, 1787-96, 1824--. 1796-1800 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed by name of guardian, 1787-96; by name of ward, 1824--. C.H. 1787--. H.R. 1824-54, microfilm.

CLAIMS REGISTER, 1855--. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECEIPTS AND RELEASES, 1947--. Earlier record in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed. C.H.

RECORD OF MINUTES, 1864-1912. 1794-1863 in Orphans Court Proceedings. Each volume indexed by name of apprentice. C.H.

ADMINISTRATION PAPERS, 1799--. All original wills, bonds, inventories, accounts and other probate papers filed together under name of respective estates. C.H.

County Commissioners

MINUTE BOOKS (JOURNALS), 1869--. C.H. 1930--. H.R. 1869-1930.

ASSESSMENT BOOKS, 1896--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

[ASSESSORS] FIELD BOOKS, 1896-1906, 1936--. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

TRANSFER BOOKS, 1927-36. 1937-- in Assessment Books. C.H.

LEDGER, 1892-1916, 1919. Tax collector's record of assessments. Arranged alphabetically within each district. C.H.

TAX LEDGER, 1930-36. Record of taxes collected. C.H.

LEDGER COURTHOUSE AND JAIL FUND, 1893-95. Record of proceedings of Commissioners, acting as a building committee for new courthouse. Indexed. C.H.

ROAD PETITIONS AND SURVEYS, 1895--. Original papers relating to roads, including petitions, bids for construction of roads and bridges, performance bonds and surveys. C.H.

TAX DITCH PAPERS, 1893--. Original petitions for construction and cleaning of drainage ditches. Arranged alphabetically by name of ditch. C.H.

LISTS OF MALE TAXABLES, 1880-82, 1884, 1888. Certified copies of lists of male taxables over 25 years of age. Arranged alphabetically within each district. H.R.

LIST OF ALIENATIONS OF REAL PROPERTY, 1860-61. H.R.

MINUTES OF THE SNOW HILL DIVISION, No. 61, SONS OF TEMPERANCE, 1847-52. H.R.

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